

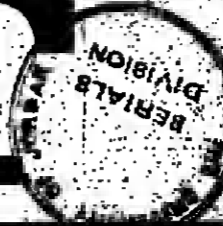
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Thousands flock to Western Wall

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Liam Neeson is 'Michael Collins'

Time Out

Sharansky's Russian reunion

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34 of the fallen buried on day of mourning

By LIAT COLLINS

The country became one grieving family yesterday, united in a day of national mourning for the 73 soldiers who died in Tuesday's helicopter disaster. Thirty-four of the fallen were buried yesterday. The magnitude of the tragedy

Jlem high school mourns two more graduates, Page 2

Inquiry focuses on human error, Page 3

sent shock waves across the country, as ripples of private grief of the bereaved families and friends affected people everywhere. Israel Radio broadcast parts of each of the funerals, emphasizing that each soldier was a person and a world of his own.

The official day of mourning commenced at 3 p.m. Wednesday with the first funeral and continued until 7 last night. Twenty-five of the soldiers were buried on Wednesday; 13 funerals are scheduled for today.

The names of the last of the victims still awaiting identification were released yesterday: St.-Sgt. Maj. Aviv Golan, 24, of Moshav Beit Yosef; St.-Sgt. Maj. Bashir Hussein, 34, of Zarzir; St.-Sgt. Shai Iammar, 20, of Jerusalem; and Sgt. Ya'acov Melamed, 20, of Petah Tikva.

Festivities were canceled, all places of entertainment were closed, and flags flew at half mast. Many people lit memorial candles and put black ribbons in windows, at the suggestion of chief rabbis, who led special prayers in the afternoon at the Western Wall.

Radio and television broadcasts maintained the somber tone that began as soon as the size of the catastrophe became known. The Histadrut announced it was suspending all industrial action for



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu grieves at the funeral of St.-Sgt. Yonatan Amedi, who was laid to rest at Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery yesterday. Amedi was named after Netanyahu's brother, who was killed in the Entebbe raid in 1976. (Ariel Jerusalem)

the day and Egged carried soldiers free of charge. IAF aircraft, except those on operational duty, remained on the ground in tribute to fallen comrades.

All state schools held memorial assemblies at the start of the day. Media attention focused on the Galili High School in Kfar Sava, which lost three graduates in the collision; the Alliance School in Ramat Aviv, which also lost three former pupils; and Jerusalem's Rene Cassin High School, which lost two more graduates in the crash, bringing to 26 the number lost in terror attacks or during their military service.

"Today is a day of mourning for the whole people of Israel, which lost the best of its sons in the helicopter disaster," wrote Education

Minister Ze'evulun Hammer in an announcement sent to all schools. "The State of Israel lowers its flags on the fresh graves of 73 of its fighters, who fell as one guarding its safety and security."

Each funeral was attended by at least one MK or minister. President Ezer Weizman, who promised to meet every bereaved family, began the first of 73 condolence calls yesterday morning in Kfar Yona, at the home of Sgt.-Maj. Saguy Araz, 22.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu attended the funeral in Jerusalem of St.-Sgt. Yonatan Amedi, 20, named after the premier's brother who was killed in the 1976 Entebbe rescue the week

Continued on Page 2

Yonatan Amedi dies 20 years after his namesake

By HERB KEINON

When Rina Amedi was pregnant in July 1976, the IDF carried out its raid on Entebbe. Amedi and her husband decided that if the baby was a boy, they would name him after Yonatan Netanyahu, the commando killed in the operation.

Yesterday, Yonatan Netanyahu's brother, the prime minister, eulogized Yonatan Amedi, who was killed in Tuesday night's helicopter crash.

St.-Sgt. Amedi, 20, was from Ma'aleh Adumim. He was buried in Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery.

"His name was Yoni, Yonatan," Netanyahu said. "His parents named him after my brother, who was killed defending our land. Both of

them are buried on this mountain, in the Holy Land, in the Holy City. Both of them fulfilled their obligations. Both of them served the country, both of them gave their lives."

All that remains, Netanyahu said, "is to cry for them, and think of the things they could have done in their lives, the pride they could have brought their parents and their families..."

"Gedalia," Netanyahu said, addressing Amedi's father, "we will not forget Yonatan. In his name we will try harder, in his name we will do everything to bring real peace to our land."

Thousands of people crammed into the cemetery for the funeral. They stood, many of them sobbing in the arms of friends, between row after row of the flower-bedded tomb-

stones of other soldiers. Even as friends and relatives stayed after the funeral to pass by the fresh grave, and as the brown-bereted Golan soldiers who served as Amedi's honor guard dispersed, another honor guard, this one made up of green-bereted Nahal soldiers, gathered in the parking lot to await the funeral of St.-Sgt. Omer Shalit.

Gedalia Amedi, who owns a candy store in the Mahane Yehuda market, wrote a letter to Netanyahu after the helicopter crash, explaining that his son was named after Yoni Netanyahu, and that "if your schedule allows it, we would like to see you pay final respects to our son."

Amedi is survived by his parents, two sisters and a brother.

Prisoners of Zion living in poverty

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Dozens of former Prisoners of Zion and aliyah activists - including Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak

and Yosef Begun - are subsisting on meager, publicly funded allowances. *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

The government is opposing - on budgetary grounds - a draft bill to grant regulated pensions to former Prisoners of Zion and other activists.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein confirmed last night that an unspecified number of former prisoners are facing economic hardship. They include former Prisoners of Zion from Iraq, Ethiopia, Romania and North Africa, he said.

"They are entitled to special status for their (underground) activities. It is their right - even if they are not invalids - and they should not have to beg," he said.

The National Insurance Institute pays a pension only to former prisoners who become ill.

Edelstein said the Treasury and the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry were opposing the draft bill - presented to the last Knesset by MK Emanuel Zissman - because of budgetary difficulties.

"This is a small number of people for whom a few hundred extra shekels will make a big difference

every month," he said.

The Knesset is due to vote on Monday on whether the draft, approved in its first reading by the previous Knesset, can be carried over to the present house.

"This situation is a disgrace to our people and to Jewish tradition, which always cared for those in need," said Nudel, who was a refusenik for 16 years, four of them spent in prison. "No one is without bread or a roof over their heads. But we have created a cynical establishment. They are abusing us. We were called heroes and now have become useless old people. I don't believe the Knesset will take money from its pocket and give it to [the prisoners]."

"People who spent years in prison are too proud to put out their hands now for money," she said.

No one saved money for the prisoners during their long years of struggle, she added, and most of them were too old to begin working when they finally arrived in Israel.

As a single woman over 60, Nudel receives NIS 782 from the

Continued on Page 2

Netanyahu to meet Arafat at Erez on Sunday

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's trip to the Netherlands next week has been postponed by one day and abridged due to the helicopter tragedy.

Netanyahu and Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok agreed during a phone conversation yesterday that they would meet in Amsterdam on Wednesday, when the prime minister stops over en route to Washington.

According to a statement issued by Netanyahu's office, Kok understood the need to shorten the visit and he expressed condolences to Israel over the tragedy.

The Netherlands currently holds the six-month rotating leadership of the European Union.

Netanyahu's meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, originally scheduled for yesterday but postponed due to the

Continued on Page 6

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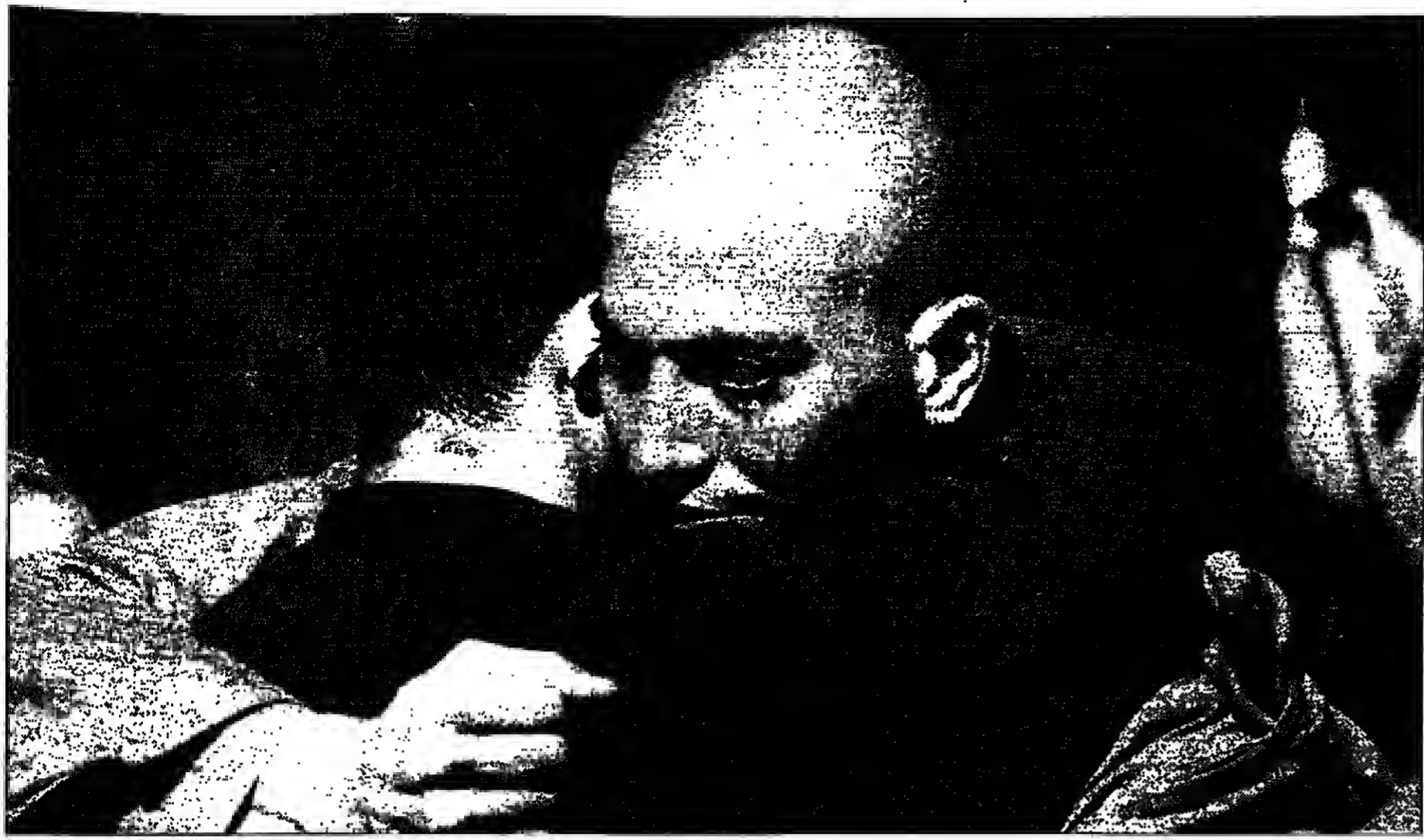
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A graduate serving in the army and a pupil of Jerusalem's Rene Cassin High School console each other yesterday at a memorial service at the school, which lost two more graduates in the helicopter disaster.

Worshippers flock to Western Wall

By HAIM SHAPIRO

As the sun slowly sank behind them, thousands of worshippers flocked to the Western Wall yesterday for memorial prayers organized by the Chief Rabbinate to culminate a day of mourning and atonement.

The usual black-clad harodi worshippers, who often form the majority at the Western Wall Plaza, were soon outnumbered by thousands of youngsters in knitted kippot and young women from religious high schools. As the crowd grew, the sun set, leaving a chill as the area was covered with shadow.

In contrast to most holidays, and even such solemn days as Yom Kippur and Tisha Be'av, when the onlookers often outnumber the worshippers, virtually the entire crowd had come to pour out its heart.

From a makeshift platform near the Western Wall, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau led in the recitation of Psalms and Sephardi Chief

Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron led the massive congregation in the special prayers of *Yom Kippur Katan*, a day of fasting observed on the day before the new Hebrew month, which begins today. Many of the youngsters, most of them only a year or two away from army service themselves, swayed earnestly as they prayed.

Addressing those present after the prayers, Lau expressed his faith in the coming of the messiah and the resurrection of the dead. The 73 young heroes, he said, comparing them to the prophet Elijah, had gone to heaven in a fiery vehicle.

Earlier the chief rabbi noted that he had received a letter of consolation from Haj Adel Zaidan, head of the Council of Moslem Clergy in Israel. In the letter, Zaidan had said that he had ordered all of his colleagues to cancel the celebrations usually held for the Moslem holiday of Id al-Fitr, which begins today, and to only hold prayers in the mosques.

Rene Cassin seniors: We'll fill the empty combat slots

By BATSHEVA TSUR

There is no memorial plaque at the entrance to Rene Cassin, the high school which has lost eight graduates in the line of duty over the past two years - more than any other in the country.

The latest two died in Tuesday's helicopter crash: St.-Sgt. Itamar Shai, 20, and Omer Shalit, 19.

Instead of a plaque, when tragedy strikes giant sheets of construction paper are fastened to the walls at the entrance of the school in Jerusalem's Ramot Eshkol quarter, where they serve as an impromptu bulletin board. While seeming to emphasize the transient character of a disaster, they provide a vehicle for the pupils to express sentiments to the families.

"We shall overcome - and may we know no more," one pupil wrote yesterday in large letters across the placard. "Re'ut, we will always be with you and your family," another wrote to her classmate, Omer's

younger sister.

An icy draft blew through the school building yesterday morning, as a thousand normally rowdy youngsters walked around in numb shock. Sobbing almost inaudibly, pupils clutched each other for warmth and support. One girl fainted. Inside the auditorium, 73 memorial candles were kindled against a black backdrop, with one stark word - "Nizkor" (we shall remember), as the school gathered, like educational institutions throughout the country, to honor the victims' memory. A wreath was laid. Mayor Ehud Olmert joined the mourners.

A large contingent of uniformed soldiers, officers, and pilot cadets - mainly graduates from the classes of 1994 and 1995, those of Itamar and Omer, respectively - stood alongside in an honor guard. "That wall of uniforms gives us great strength," school psychologist Efraim Weinraub said. "We are all together."

Many of the soldiers were clearly shaken. Most refused to talk to the media. But one,

19-year-old Nir, who is serving with the Nahal Brigade in the North, gave expression to his feelings.

"It's very hard," he said. "Only last week, our brigade lost three comrades [killed by a roadside bomb], and now it's friends from school. Our spirits are a little bit low."

Nir said he did not feel compunctions about going to a combat unit despite the heavy number of casualties from the school. "In our school, we have a tradition of going to the toughest units. We want to get to the top, to be the best," he said.

Judging by a random handful of twelfth-graders, the recent events have not harmed motivation in the school among the next batch of draftees.

"The situation is scary, but many of my friends plan to join combat units," said one of them, Gal Cohen. "If we have to go to the army, we want to do our very best. Meanwhile, we have some time and we are not thinking about it."

Neuse Amara, who came from Ethiopia

five years ago, said he was going to have an operation to raise his medical profile. "I want to go to the paratroops and the IDF has given me a low profile. I plan to correct that. My parents are in favor of the operation," he said.

The youngsters are well aware of what certain circles have whispered about Rene Cassin - that the school is "cursed." They take a national approach.

"I am furious," said twelfth-grader Gideon Koster. "I was sitting in a restaurant after the Beit Lid bombing, when we lost so many graduates. Someone came up to me and said our school was 'cursed.' [Wednesday] night I heard a religious man say that again on the radio. People seem to be simply ignorant."

"We are a very large school and we believe people have to volunteer and serve the country. Therefore we have large numbers of casualties. I am definitely going to a combat unit. The fact that people are killed merely makes us more motivated. We have to fill up the empty spots."

13 helicopter victims to be buried today

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Thirteen more victims of Tuesday night's helicopter disaster are to be buried today; the funeral of the final victim to be identified has yet to be announced. On Wednesday, 25 soldiers were laid to rest; yesterday 34 were buried.

The following soldiers are to be buried today:

- Sgt. Avishai Gidon, 19, of Kiryat Motzkin, at the military section of the Tam Shalom Cemetery, at 11:15;
- St.-Sgt. Maj. Aviv Golan, 24, of Moshav Beit Yosef, at the military section of the Beit Yosef Cemetery, at 11;
- St.-Sgt. Micha Godlieb, 20, of Tel Aviv, at the military section of Kiryat Shaul Cemetery, at 12:30;
- St.-Sgt. Maj. Bashir Hussein, 24, of Zarzir, at the Zarzir Military Cemetery, at 12:30;
- St.-Sgt. Shai Isamar, 20, of Jerusalem, at Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery, at 10;
- Capt. Avishai Levy, 27, of Tel Aviv, at the military section of Kiryat Shaul Cemetery, at 9;
- Sgt. Ya'acov Melamed, 20, of Petah Tikva, at Segula Cemetery, at 12;
- St.-Sgt. Gilad Mishner, 20, of Jerusalem, at Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery, at 12;
- St.-Sgt. Heran Parnas, 20, of Herzliya, at Kiryat Shaul, at 11:30;
- Lt. Eren Hai-Peretz, 21, of Kibbutz Deganya Alef, at the Deganya Alef Cemetery, at 11;
- Sgt. Kamel Rahal, 27, of Zarzir, at the Zarzir Military Cemetery, at 12:30;
- Sgt. Shahar Rosenberg, 19, of Ness Ziona, at the military section of the Ness Ziona Cemetery, at 11;
- St.-Sgt. Assaf Rotenberg, 20, of Tel Aviv, at Kiryat Shaul, at 10.

Hizbullah: Expel US ambassador

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah activists continued to celebrate yesterday the deaths of 73 IDF soldiers in the helicopter disaster, with one of their leaders describing the tragedy as an act of "Godly revenge."

Deputy Hizbullah leader Sheikh Naim Kasseem also called on the Lebanese government to expel US Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Jones because he had publicly expressed his regrets over the loss of so many Israeli lives.

Jones had described the tragedy as a sad occasion and said he felt sorry for the individuals and the bereaved families.

"I think that any time you see the loss of life on such a scale, I think that no matter what side of the conflict you are on, you should not rejoice," Jones was quoted as saying in the Lebanese press.

The ambassador was reported as saying that the soldiers were just doing their duty for their country and could not be blamed for the policies of their government.

"They are victims as much as anybody else," he reportedly said.

Kasseem lambasted Jones over his comments, accusing him of "representing Israel in Lebanon." He said Jones should be reprimanded by the Lebanese government and sent home.

Kasseem said Jones's comments were an "insult" to the Lebanese people because the soldiers in question were planning to carry out attacks in Lebanon against civilians "to try and consolidate the Zionist enemy's occupation of this country."

Kasseem said the disaster was a "Godly revenge for the children of Kafir Kana and all those who have been killed and who are suffering in Lebanon."

He said the number of soldiers proved that the IDF had planned to carry out a special operation in Lebanon.

Similar comments were made by Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri, who said the size and composition of the IDF suggested that the soldiers were planning a kidnap operation or some major

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, the eight of hearts, the eight of diamonds and the nine of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 229703 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 349868 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets numbered 407876, 308560, 129686, 499752, 391139, 288602, 141324 and 622491 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 41288, 00265, 60193, 38477, 62538, 65592, 28017, 44673, 68756, 46899, 17240, 24262, 36133, 84011, 67838, 06899, 62857, 22482 and 80517 were good for NIS 1,000, while those holding tickets ending in 520, 448, 965 or 001 won NIS 100; in 84, 03, 77 or 44, NIS 30; in 18 or 60, NIS 20; and in 1 or 9, NIS 10.

MOURNING

Continued from Page 1

Amedi was born. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, speaking at the Tel Aviv funeral of Sgt. Yaron Tsofot, 20, described the victims as the best of the country's youth. "The whole world looks today at the country of Israel, at the unity of the people, and their ability to unite in grief and say, 'Together we will be strong!'" said Mordechai.

Sgt. Gideon Posner, 22, whose family lives in England, was buried in Kfar Sava, where his grandfather is buried. Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i and MKs Gideon Ezra (Likud) and Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur (National Religious Party) were present. Ezra used the words of a comrade-in-arms to describe Posner as "an outstanding soldier, always dressed like an English officer." Posner and his brother, Shimon, as soldiers without family in the country, were adopted by Kibbutz Mashabei Sadeh.

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PRISONERS

Continued from Page 1

NII, from which NIS 110 is deducted for health insurance, leaving her with NIS 672.

"Because I was famous when I came here, the Jewish Agency gave me an allowance of NIS 898, in addition," she said.

"I was lucky that I wrote a book," said Nudel who shares a house with her sister's family in Karmel Yosef. "When the money

from my book runs out, I don't know what I'll do."

Slepak, now 69, said that he has used up everything he earned from working at Tel Aviv University for almost eight years.

"I arrived here in 1987, three days before my 60th birthday ... We were [refusees] for 18 years and when we came here, we were told we were too old to work. My wife [a doctor] had a job for three years," he said. "We have no more savings."

He said that he and his wife receive joint payments of NIS

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Cause of 'copter collision may never be known

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and agencies

With no in-flight recordings and no survivors, investigators may never fully determine what caused Tuesday night's mid-air crash of two transport helicopters in which all 73 soldiers and airman died, analysts said yesterday.

Security sources said an inquiry commission appointed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is focusing on human error as the main factor in the worst air disaster in the country's military history.

The sources said the Sikorsky CH-53 helicopters were circling in close formation along the northern border, waiting for permission to cross

into Lebanon, when they collided minutes after takeoff.

Investigators think the rotor of the rear helicopter hit the tail of the lead helicopter, the sources said. One helicopter plunged straight down, while the other spiraled to the ground.

IAF helicopters douse their lights when they enter Lebanon to avoid drawing fire from Hezbollah, but it was not clear whether the pilots had done so yet, security sources said.

"If the suspicion is that human error caused the crash and there's no one to question, it becomes very difficult to reach solid conclusions and recommendations," said Yisrael Yehalom, a former Sikorsky pilot who investigated the previous worst air disaster, in 1977, when a CH-53 crashed in the

Jordan Valley, killing 54.

Channel 1 quoted an unnamed pilot in the Sikorsky squadron as saying the rear helicopter "simply ran over" the leading copter.

Military correspondent Alon Ben-David said, "The only explanation at present is an error on the pilot's part, an error in estimating the distance between the two helicopters, which caused him to approach and hit the helicopter in front of him."

There was no flight recorder, often known as a "black box."

Mordechai reiterated yesterday that the air force is obligated to adopt any recommendations made by the commission of inquiry. He also advised against making hasty judgments.

"Everything that will be demanded of us as a

result of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry will be adopted and implemented," Mordechai said in an interview with Israel Radio.

"The commission has only just begun. I advise all of us to be patient and not to take any shortcuts. It is important that the process be orderly and based on facts, and not something which is out to satisfy short-term public needs," Mordechai said.

The external commission - appointed outside the air force to ensure against a possible whitewash - is expected to submit its interim results sometime next week. A final report is to be submitted within 45 days.

The commission met in Tel Aviv yesterday and heard testimony from air force personnel and experts on the CH-53 helicopter.

Preliminary inspection of the wreckage found that the second helicopter hit the tail of the first, IDF Spokesman Brig-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami said that so far the cause of the collision is not clear.

Nevertheless, evidence seemed to point to human error, Mordechai said there were no restrictions due to the weather and there was nothing to show that it was a result of a mechanical malfunction.

"The mission of the inquiry is not easy. It's very complicated," Mordechai said, urging the media and the public to refrain from speculating how the collision occurred.

"I ask for a display of responsibility and not to go on about all sorts of speculation based on unsubstantiated information," Mordechai said.

Beit Jann buries its 52nd soldier

By DAVID RUDGE

In bitter cold and with snow and ice still lining the streets, thousands of residents of Beit Jann gathered in the village yesterday to pay their last respects to Sgt. Fadi Kazamel, 19, one of the victims of the helicopter disaster.

Kazamel was the 52nd person from the Druze village on the slopes of Mt. Meron, which today has a population of around 6,000 people, to be killed while serving in the security forces, since the establishment of the state.

The village has lost more of its sons in relation to the size of its population than any other community in the country, yet it did not have a military cemetery until three years ago.

Yesterday Kazamel, from a close-knit family of eight, was laid to rest there.

"He was kind and quiet and everybody who knew him, loved him," said Mohammed Kazamel, a brother-in-law and a relative.

"He liked karate and the army and, from what I understand, he was planning to get married at the end of the year," said Mohammed.

The Kazamel family is well known in Beit Jann and in the region generally. Fadi, according to Mohammed, was the third member of the family to be killed while serving in the security forces.

"One was killed while on army service, another in one of the disasters in Tyre in 1983, if I remember correctly, and now Fadi," said Mohammed.

Mohammed himself also served in the IDF, in the Artillery Corps,

along with virtually all of the men in the village.

"I hope that this will be the last tragedy, not just for the Kazamel family or for Beit Jann, but for the IDF and the whole State of Israel," said Mohammed.

Despite the relative isolation of the hilltop village, which has only one access road, and bitter disputes with the Nature Reserves Authority over land rights in the Mt. Meron nature preserve, residents of Beit Jann see themselves as being an integral part of the state.

"We have paid in the past and again now a bitter, painful and heavy price but, perhaps actually because of this, we are an integral part of the state," said local council chairman Yusef Kaban.

Foreign Minister David Levy, OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled and Knesset Interior Committee chairman Salah Tarif were among the thousands of people at the funeral yesterday.

"I came here as a representative of the government to cry with you and bow my head in front of the coffin of the young fighter, just 19 years old," said David Levy, his voice choking with emotion.

"We will never know what happened in those second prior to the crash. We will never know because not even one survived to tell what happened, what they said in those same seconds."

"I have been in this village already. I have been through many disasters and as a believer I have a prayer, Shalom. Let us not know any more disasters."



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert observes a minute's silence for the fallen sons of municipal employees. (Brian Hentler)

Peres: We are one family

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

"We are all one family," Labor Chairman Shimon Peres said yesterday, in a memorial session held by the party's executive and Knesset faction at Labor's Tel Aviv headquarters.

"We have undergone two days of tears and pain, and the mourning is unprecedented, both in its magnitude and intensity. But in these days the Israeli nation has emerged in all its greatness and strength," Peres said. "These were two days not only of tears, but of solidarity between the nation and its homeland. We are one real family, beyond all the arguments, we have true unity in protecting our land and a true desire for peace."

"Pain does not distinguish between government and opposition," Peres added, noting "the war for Israel's safety and the devotion of its youth provide us with hope and security. In that we are all united."

He spoke of the "heart-rending weeping and cries of the bereaved parents and children, but there was also greatness in their support and faith in the IDF. I don't remember such profound expression of young people to the army, and of parents to their sons."

"It is hard to describe in words the

supreme effort of the helicopter pilots, the air crews, the Nahal, Golan and armored troops, night after night, day by day in the deep Lebanese mud for the past 15 years. The battle is not over. The 73 soldiers fell in the line of duty, in battle...The families will remain with the pain of loss which is inescapable and has no cure," Peres said.

The meeting opened with a minute's silence.

Then Shai David, a member of Labor's Young Guard, read Haim Guri's poem "Here lie our dead."

Faction chairman MK Ra'anan Cohen sent Labor's condolences to the bereaved families, adding "at this awful moment we want to embrace the mourning families and tell them we are with you. On this day we must send encouragement and support to IDF soldiers wherever they are, soldiers who are protecting our safety day and night, and pay with their blood to ensure our future."

Cohen said the northern front was becoming crueler every day "but our message must be sharp and clear. We shall not retreat or abandon our positions, and shall continue in our fight as long as peace and security are not assured for the residents of the North and the entire state."

Stubborn officer saved soldier from crash

A soldier escaped death in the helicopter crash because a stubborn officer enforcing passenger limits forced him off just before takeoff, his family said yesterday.

"I wanted to tell the story of what was in fact a miracle," the soldier's uncle, Nissim Dana, said in a call to Army Radio.

The nephew Raz Albahari, 20, boarded one of the two Sikorsky CH-53 transporters but was forced off along with a friend because of army regulations limiting the number who could fly.

The two were told they would go next week.

"At the last second they took him off," Dana said, describing a tug-of-war between two officers over what to do with Albahari. Both

officers died in the crash.

"One of the officers said he had to have him at the post because he is a professional guy, an ordnance expert, and the second officer, the senior commander, simply disagreed. Under no circumstance was he prepared to let him board," Dana said.

Albahari, who has served 11 months in Lebanon and was due to spend up to two weeks on duty in the security zone, left on the helicopter a bag of sweets and milk and other items for a friend at the front.

He called his mother to say he was coming home.

It was close to 7 p.m., about the

time of the crash. The mother Malka Albahari, 42, told Reuters her son caught a bus and arrived at his home in northern Israel at 8:30 p.m.

News of the crash was first broadcast on television at 9 p.m.

"Then he put it together these were his friends. All of them were killed," she said.

Albahari, who received psychological and medical treatment at a hospital, raced from funeral to funeral on Wednesday and yesterday, his mother said. The IDF Spokesman barred him from speaking to reporters.

"I got my son as a gift," she said. "It's the hand of God." (Reuter)

NEWS in brief

Virtual memorials to 73 soldiers

Several Internet sites have been created as memorials to the 73 soldiers killed in Tuesday's helicopter accident. Information on the disaster and a condolence book can be found at www.iconet.net. A chatroom on the disaster and condolence book also can be accessed at www.netvision.net or www.neting.com. The sites recorded over 3,000 hits in their first 12 hours. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Rabbi Schach released from hospital

Rabbi Eliezer Menahem Schach was discharged in good condition from Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital yesterday, after nearly five days of treatment for serious respiratory difficulties. The 99-year-old rabbi, the spiritual leader of Lithuanian haredim, had been attached to a respirator and a feeding tube and treated with antibiotics and steroids. He is now breathing on his own and will not have to return for a checkup at the hospital, according to Ichilov officials. *Judy Siegel*

Immigration down in first half of 1996

Some 33,000 new immigrants arrived in Israel in the first half of 1996, a 4.4% drop compared with the same period in 1995, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The number of the immigrants arriving from the former Soviet Union, 27,900, dropped 6.5% from 29,800. From the Americas and Oceania, 2,100 immigrants arrived during the reported period, compared with 1,700, an increase of 24%. Most of that increase was from South America, with 1,100 arriving compared with 700. *Itim*

More survivors to be eligible for pensions

Holocaust survivors who previously received one-time payments from Germany may now be eligible for pensions, according to the latest agreement between Bonn and the Claims Conference.

Monthly pensions of DM 500 will be available to survivors who already received one-time compensation of more than DM 10,000.

These survivors previously had been excluded by German guidelines from the so-called Article 2 pension program, which was created as part of the German reunification treaty. The largest group of survivors still excluded from compensation are those in eastern Europe, although negotiations are continuing to expand the eligibility criteria. Applications are available from the Claims Conference, POB 74, Tel Aviv. *Marilyn Henry*

Arab youth wounded after attacking policeman

A border policeman shot and lightly injured an Arab youth who fought with him in Jerusalem's Old City, a police official said.

"Near the Damascus Gate, a Border Police force arrested an Arab youth for throwing stones at an Egged bus," police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said. "The Arab, under arrest, attacked a policeman, who fired at him and hit him in the leg." *Reuter*

'Post' invites writings about crash

Children around the country have been writing stories and poems expressing their feelings following Tuesday's helicopter collision, which claimed the lives of 73 soldiers.

The *Jerusalem Post* invites parents, teachers and children to send copies of poems that express the grief, sense of loss and other emotions following the collision. Selected poems will be published in Tuesday's paper, one week after the fatal crash at She'ar Yashuv.

Fax poems to: 02-537-6553, or deliver them to The Jerusalem Post building, Yirmiyahu Street, Romema, by Monday at 12 noon.

How Much Is Your Stamp Collection Worth?

David Boyd, Director of the Philatelic Department of Phillips, the International Fine Art and Antique Auctioneers, will be visiting Israel during the week commencing February 10. He will be available to advise, regarding the valuation and sale at auction of stamp collections, old envelopes, postcards, cigarette cards and old "busted" bonds and share certificates.

For more information, or to make an appointment, phone Samantha Ashley in London on

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Further details available from the Secretariat, The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance, Givat Ram Campus, Jerusalem 91904.
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We could stop a different tragedy...

Thursday's helicopter disaster at She'ar Yashuv has reminded us all of our common fate, of the bonds of blood and steel that bind us together. Our hearts ache for the bereaved families as we grieve with them in their unspakable and enduring affliction.

Whether we are left or right, secular or religious, rich or poor, educated or illiterate, Jew, Druze, or Beduin, male or female, for a few hours we are one extended family.

Beyond the tragedy of loss, however, lies a tragedy of a different kind. It is the almost certain likelihood that our mutual sense of solidarity will quickly disperse, that we shall soon fall again into bickering and conflict.

We shall again cast withering scorn on those who think differently from us, foment hatred against them, seek to delegitimize them, and to deny that they have any real right to express their opinions.

We shall again view every aspect of our social life in terms of black or white, right or wrong, for or against, friend or enemy.

Such a way of thinking, known as "two-valued orientation," has the supreme advantage of allowing us to form and hold "adult" opinions easily, without the need to gather a variety of facts, to analyze, compare, select, or question, without the need to separate emotion and prejudice from logic and reason.

Two-valued orientation relies on simplistic models of social interaction that obviate self-doubt, and substitute absolute convictions for continuous reassessment.

But the real world is not split into such clear, convenient divisions. We exist on a series of continuums - from extreme right to extreme left, from hardi extremist to ideologically-committed secularist, from outrageously wealthy to wretchedly poor, from learning disabled to university professor.

The difference between each of us and others further up or down the scale is often not that great, and certainly no hard and fast dividing line can be drawn at any point along the continuum.

AMIEL SCHOTZ

Also, we are constantly moving along the various continua as our socioeconomic or educational situation changes, or as we adjust our political or religious attitudes. When scientists seek to verify the truth of a hypothesis or theory - often drawn up in the form of a model that places variables in a

...If we had the maturity to look for what unites us rather than what keeps us apart

set of relationships to each other - they test real outcomes against those predicted by the model.

Moreover, any true scientist will do everything in his or her power to disprove the theory by finding even one bit of data that it fails to predict.

When that happens, the theory is faulty, and must be rejected or adjusted. Only if no such conflict can be found is the scientist entitled to claim that the theory holds.

WOULDN'T it be admirable if politicians and policy-makers took a similar approach, if they spent more time considering the dangers inherent in their own proposed policies and sought ways to adjust them in order to minimize or obviate such hazards? Surely they would serve the nation better.

Sadly, it is much easier to demonstrate the dangers arising from the policies of our political opponents than it is to prove the advantages of our own.

It is, of course, true that human interaction is highly complex, and there are so many variables that no model can be relied upon to provide anything beyond the sketchiest prediction of the possible outcomes of any particular course of action.

This places governments in the invidious position of always having to make decisions and carry out policies on the basis of inadequate information, and with almost complete uncertainty regarding the consequences.

For example, an expert in labor relations told me how some years ago he was summoned to the office of the finance minister, who asked him for statistics to support a proposal he wished to make to the cabinet.

The expert explained that such data would take months to acquire, while those currently available were insufficient indicators for the proposed policy.

The minister thanked him politely, and showed him the door. Thus, in the end, government more often relies on gut feelings, experience and instinct than it does on hard or provable relations of cause and effect.

And yet, and yet... how nice it would be if politicians - and we, their supporters - could take a more honest look at proposed actions, rather than destructively criticizing those of others.

We might discover that our positions on the continuum were coming closer, that our apparent divisions were not so insurmountable as we tend to think.

Let us therefore applaud the initiative of the Likud's Michael Eitan, Labor's Yossi Beilin and their associates, who have taken the bold step of trying to do just that.

Their joint document setting out shared positions regarding Israel's stance on the final status negotiations with the Palestinians is based on just such a self-critical approach.

In their attempt to find common ground, to build a bridge between apparently irreconcilable viewpoints, they have invited the bitter resentment of many in their own political camps - of those of us who are too narrow-minded to admit that other positions are possible; of those who fear for their own political status; of those of us who always look for what's wrong with a new idea, rather than what's right about it.

If we can learn the Eitan-Beilin lesson of mutual respect, perhaps we could extend our current sense of national unity to the rest of the year, and change the ugly tone of our national debate.

The writer teaches English at Ben-Gurion University.



God's Army - or Israel's?

STUART A. COHEN

LAST month both *Ha'Oretz's* weekend supplement and the *Jerusalem Post Magazine* featured articles on "God's Army."

Both pieces focused on the growing prominence of national religious conscripts in IDF elite combat units, a propensity which deserves to be considered one of the most significant of the several transformations currently affecting the sociological composition of our armed forces.

Since the IDF Manpower Branch refuses to release any relevant statistics, the precise extent of the trend cannot be gauged. But eyewitness evidence tells its own tale.

Once rare in volunteer field formations, the sight of a knitted *kippa*, the most obtrusive sign of male national religious affiliation, is now particularly commonplace in volunteer field formations.

Of late, it has also become obtrusive in the officer's training school, which in 1995-1996 was itself commanded by a graduate of a religious high school.

How are we to interpret such phenomena, and what are their implications for Israeli civil-military relations?

The intrinsic importance of these questions is amplified by two further circumstances. One is the simultaneous decline in motivation to IDF service amongst segments of the secular population. The other is a halachic ruling issued by some national religious rabbis forbidding IDF troops to transfer either military bases or Jewish settlements on the West Bank to genocidal control. Combined, these developments have generated anxious speculation.

Might not the disproportionate representation of national religious troops in the ranks (and, eventually, on the General Staff too) undermine the IDF's traditional image as a non-partisan "people's army," which both embodies and reflects the general will of the country's predominantly secular citizenry?

Should rabbinic push ever come to military shove, might not national religious soldiers choose to disobey orders rather than contravene the teachings of their spiritual guides and mentors?

None of the evidence presently

available sustains either apprehension.

And at a time such as this, when the entire country is mourning the loss of so many young soldiers, the mere notion of differentiating between those who wear *kippot* and those who don't is especially distasteful.

No more than other Israeli youngsters do national religious troops enlist in the IDF in order to further the interests of their own particular community. The suggestion that their willingness to volunteer for service in combat units follows some blueprint designed to "capture" the IDF for a specifically national religious cause constitutes a canard uncomfortably reminiscent of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

To the extent that their behavior is motivated by an acknowledged ideological impulse (and in many cases it owes much to the more mundane wish to be "one of the crowd" or prove their individual capacity to withstand the rigors of

whose homogeneity and strong ties of mutual affiliation make them particularly susceptible to mobilization for sectoral purposes.

The vast majority of national religious troops, like their secular brothers in arms, enlist in the IDF individually and without undergoing any extraordinary process of prior indoctrination or socialization.

The exceptions, which inevitably attract disproportionate publicity, are graduates of the pre-conscription religious academies (*mekhinot kedam re'ovivot*) and members of hesder units.

But even when combined, both frameworks supply the IDF with less than 3,000 servicemen per year. Of these, only hesder troops are drafted en bloc - and even then only in company-sized infantry or armored formations.

It requires an ignorance (or deliberate disregard) of rudimentary military organizational requirements to portray so small

mutiny. But at the same time there is no cause to incriminate their more numerous colleagues (many of whom have roundly condemned that ruling), still less to tar their students wholesale with the brush of potential disaffection.

No religious troops have ever disobeyed orders on political grounds in the past, and there exists no solid evidence whatsoever to support the suggestion that all might do so in the future.

The real danger posed by the rising incidence of national religious enlistment does not lie in that phenomenon itself. It lies, rather, in the temptation it provides to ignore other societal trends that pose far more viable threats to Israel's military security.

Or to put matters another way: By focusing our attention so intently on the supposed perils of "God's army," we might be tempted to disregard those perils that do indeed sap the strength of the IDF - for example, the increasingly perilous relationship between the army and society.

As the chief of staff so eloquently pointed out in his impassioned address on the first anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, relations between Israel and its armed forces are currently undergoing shifts of potentially seismic proportions. The need to repair that symbiotic ranks as a pressing national priority.

Little can be achieved simply by rubbishing the alleged "over-motivation" of a particular segment of the military complement.

Instead of pondering the hypothetical hazards of religious enlistment, would it not be more appropriate - and altogether more sensible - to reflect on its proven advantages, and then consider how best we might apply the lessons thus learned in order to improve the preparedness of all Israeli youth for national service?

The writer is professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and a senior researcher at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.

Embodiment of a dream

The decision to present my candidacy for the office of prime minister in the year 2000 was neither a media gesture nor a provocation. It was an attempt to improve the bargaining position of Israel's Arab minority in issues concerning its political empowerment.

Anyone looking at the country's new electoral system would have to come to two major conclusions:

1. Israel's parliament is drawn up along demographic ethnic and religious lines, owing to the separation of votes into two primary types, the presidential vote and the parliamentary one. The former is essentially an ideological vote; the latter is essentially one of identity.

This composition does nothing to resolve the political marginalization of the Arabs in Israel, despite the increase in the number of Arab Knesset members.

2. Generally speaking, Israel's parliament has lost some of its power and significance to a system which has yet to define whether it is a presidential system or a parliamentary democracy.

Given this decline in the status of the Knesset, the political influence of the largely-excluded Arab minority in Israel has also decreased, despite the fact that its relative representation in the Knesset has increased.

If so, what reason remains to ignore the second, more significant, political field - that of the election of prime minister, where the number of Arab votes still makes a difference? That is, of course, that we are able to liberate

AZMI BISHARA

ourselves from the idea that we, a priori, belong to one of the two camps.

An Arab third candidate may force the whole system to go

In my candidacy for the premiership in 2000 lies a vision of equality and shared civic participation

through a second round, if no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the total votes. In that case, no candidate will be able to make it in the second round without our support.

Such support ought not to be granted without a quid pro quo of political benefits, in the form of genuine political rights.

Should one of the prime ministerial candidates obtain more than 50 percent of the votes in the first round, our support would not make much of a difference anyway.

So much for the pragmatic side of things. But this proposal is not only pragmatic; it is based on a vision - a dream, if you like.

IT WILL not be only an exercise in politics. The notion of Arab candidacy deals seriously with the vision of equality and shared civic participation in a "state of all its

citizens."

In spite of some progress in its civic culture during the last decade, contemporary Israel has been unable to turn citizenship into the cornerstone of the relationship between the state and the individual. Israel is the state of the Jews de facto and de jure. It is a very unconventional, historical nation, a nation one may join only by belonging to the Jewish religion. The only remaining dispute seems to be whether joining the Jewish holy community takes place according to the Orthodox, Conservative or Reform rituals.

The vision embodied in my candidacy is a separation of citizenship from religion. It is a dream of normalization of Israeli democracy.

Opposing opinions, naturally, were expected, as was the attempt to legalize discrimination between Arab and Jewish citizenship by preventing Arabs from contending for prime ministerial office.

The Israeli political system rejected the legalization of national discrimination in this instance. But it has not yet either overcome or delegitimized discrimination itself.

The writer is a Hadash-Balad MK.

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Participants at the conference include lecturers from Israel, Australia, England, US, Germany and Canada. The lectures will be given in English. Panel discussions are open to the public. For further details, please contact Yad Vashem at tel: 02-6751609, fax: 02-6751695

The unveiling of the tombstone of
PHYLIS HACKETT ת"י
 will take place on Wednesday, February 12, 1997,
 at 3:30 p.m., at Har Tamir, Har Hamenuhot.
 The Hackett, Gaba
 and Abrahams Families

ADL
 Anti-Defamation League
 Our thoughts are with the State and People of Israel
 as we mourn the young soldiers lost in the tragic helicopter accident.
 We extend our sincerest condolences to the families
 and friends of the victims.
 May they be comforted among the mourners of Jerusalem and Zion.
 David H. Strassler National Chairman
 Abraham H. Foxman National Director
 Harry Wall Director, Israel Office

THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM
 and many Christians worldwide
 mourn with the bereaved families
 and the House of Israel
 the tragic loss of 73
 of its finest sons

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 and the bereaved families, in
 mourning the fallen soldiers of
 the helicopter disaster, and pays
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 Deeply mourn the tragic loss of
73 of Israel's finest sons
 Our heartfelt condolences
 to the bereaved families,
 the IDF and Am Yisrael
 Marlene E. Post
 Hadassah President

We share the anguish
 of all Israel
 at the
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 of our sons, brothers,
 and friends.
 May the bereaved
 be comforted
 among the mourners
 of Zion and Jerusalem.
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With great sorrow we announce the death of our dear
MANFRED MOSHE KLAFTER ז"ל
 in a tragic accident.
 The funeral will take place on
 Sunday, February 9 (2 Adar Alef), at 2 p.m.,
 leaving from the Sanhedria Funeral Home
 in Jerusalem.
 His wife, Esther, and his daughters
 His brother, Prof. Zvi Eyal, and family
 Shiva at the Klafter home, 13 Rehov Diskin,
 Villa 1C9, Jerusalem.

**National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of
 Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation**
 With profound sadness, the Board of Directors
 and Staff of AMCHA mourn the tragic death of its
 Founder and President
MANFRED KLAFTER ת"י
 His unceasing efforts to ease the pain of
 Holocaust survivors in Israel and
 around the world are a legacy for us all.
 We extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Esther
 his brother, Prof. Zvi Eyal, and their families.
 The funeral will take place on Sunday, February 9, 1997
 at 2 p.m., leaving from the Sanhedria Funeral Home,
 Jerusalem, for burial on the Mount of Olives.

With great sorrow, we announce the passing of
**SARA BRACHA
 GOLDSTOFF-KLEINBERGER** ז"ל
 (Amsterdam - Jerusalem)
 on Wednesday, February 5, 1997 (28 Shvat 5757)
 The funeral took place at Har Hamenuhot,
 Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.
 Jehoshua Heshal Goldstoft Jehuda and Marja
 Ephraim and Tamara Goldstoft-Loonstein
 Goldstoft-Leonenberg Ilana and Sharon
 Chagal and Nadav Tali and Selma Goldstoft-Drukker
 Jetty and Zvi Beckman-Goldstoft Naomi, Dennis,
 Michal, Hila and Oren Maxelle and Yoella
 Shiva at the home of the deceased, 1 Reh. Epstein,
 cor. 2 Shmaryahu Lavit, Jerusalem

**JIA The Joint Israel Appeal Family
 in Britain, Ireland and Israel**
 extends sincere and heartfelt condolences to
 the families of those who lost their lives, in the
 terrible accident at Moshav She'ar Yashuv.
 We share in their grief, and we unite with the
 people in Israel in mourning.
 They are all our families, they are all our sons

**JIA The Joint Israel Appeal Family
 in Britain, Ireland and Israel,
 incorporating the British Olm Society**
 extend their heartfelt condolences to the
Posner Family on the loss of their son
GIDON
 in the terrible accident at Moshav She'ar Yashuv
 We share in their grief and join the
 people of Israel in mourning.

THE ISRAEL HOTEL ASSOCIATION
 mourns the death of the
IDF SOLDIERS
 killed in the tragic accident
 and extends deepest condolences to their families.
 Due to the mourning, the Israel Hotel Association convention
 has been postponed.

News Datacom Research
 mourns the
IDF SOLDIERS ז"ל
 who were killed in this week's tragic accident
 We extend our sincerest condolences to their family members,
 officers and fellow IDF soldiers, as well as to all of Beit Yisrael

**Search for
 US naval
 men
 called off**

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**
 and news agencies
 Officials called off the search
 yesterday for four crewmen missing
 from a Florida-based US Navy
 jet that crashed off Haifa Tuesday
 night, a spokesman at Cecil Field
 Naval Air Station said in
 Jacksonville, Florida.
 Remnants of the aircraft and at
 least one helmet were found,
 according to security sources.
 The S-3B Viking aircraft
 assigned to Cecil Field in north-
 east Florida was on a routine train-
 ing mission in the Mediterranean
 Sea and took off from the aircraft
 carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt
 on Tuesday.
 "It disappeared from the ship's
 radar and we went to search for
 it," said Cecil Field spokesman
 Bert Byers. "Search and rescue
 units have recovered some debris
 with squadron markings. We have
 found no survivors."
 The carrier-based anti-subma-
 rine aircraft went down about 145
 km off the coast. Search crews
 covered a 1,500 square-nautical-
 mile area before abandoning the
 search, Byers said.
 The Florida base identified the
 victims as Lt.-Cmdr. Mark Ehlers,
 35, of Jacksonville, Florida, Lt.
 Mark Eyre, 28, also of
 Jacksonville, Lt. Mike Weems, 27
 of Pensacola, Florida, and
 Aviations Systems Warfare
 Operator Third Class Wendy
 Potter, 24, of Oakdale, California.

ARAFAT
 Continued from Page 1
 tragedy, has been rescheduled for
 Sunday evening at Erez junction.
 The two leaders are to launch sev-
 eral security-related committees
 agreed upon in the Hebron
 accord.
 The PA is expecting Israel to
 release 24 women security prison-
 ers after the meeting.
 Hasbun Abdel-Kazek, a PA
 prisoners' relief negotiator,
 announced the pending release to
 the women prisoners earlier this
 week. The women prisoners were
 to have been released in
 September 1995 as part of the
 Oslo 2 agreement, but the deci-
 sion by President Ezer Weizman
 not to grant pardons to three
 women he said were directly
 involved in murder, led the others
 to stay behind bars in solidarity.
 Meanwhile, US Ambassador to
 Israel Martin Indyk visited Egypt
 yesterday in what officials in
 Jerusalem believe is part of an
 ongoing US effort to dispel mis-
 perceptions which have plagued the
 Egyptian-Israeli relationship
 over the last several months.
 US Ambassador to Egypt Ned
 Walker visited Israel last month,
 briefing Israeli officials about
 Egyptian perceptions of Israeli
 policy-making.
 So far, sources say, Walker has
 visited Israel twice and Indyk has
 visited Egypt three times.

**PA officers
 arrested for
 prisoner's
 death**

By **JON IMMANUEL**
 Palestinian Police confirmed
 that two men arrested in connec-
 tion with the death of a prisoner in
 a Nablus jail were members of
 military intelligence.
 PA Justice Minister Freith Abu
 Medein had said on Monday that
 there had been "some arrests" in
 the case.
 The sources said that the men
 were an interrogator and an admin-
 istrator. According to Reuter,
 police yesterday questioned the
 head of military intelligence in
 Nablus, Hami Ayad. Military intel-
 ligence officials brought property
 dealer Yusef Baba, 32, to Rafidiye
 Hospital three times during the last
 five days of his life, suffering from
 internal bleeding.
 Abu Medein said that the PA
 Justice system would use an "iron
 hand" against the perpetrators
 because military intelligence had
 arrested Baba in secret for an
 offense having nothing to do with
 military intelligence, was held for
 a month without the knowledge of
 the police or the Justice Ministry,
 and even after torturing the victim
 to death, military intelligence tried
 to cover it up.

**The Masorti Conservative Movement in Israel
 is shocked and heartbroken as it grieves with the
 families who have lost their dear ones in the tragic
 helicopter accident.**
 * The Movement calls upon its congregations to light seventy-
 three candles before Shabbat in memory of these young men.
 * The Movement will contribute and dedicate to their memory
 seventy-three lectures to high school classes on the subject of
 Volunteerism as a Value in Jewish Tradition.
 * Tfilat Haderoch (The Prayer for Travelers) will be sent to
 soldiers or their parents who request it.
 * Masorti Rabbis stand ready to help all those in need of
 religious and spiritual support at this time.
 For requests, please call 177-022-0120.
 At this most difficult time, we join hands with all of our soldiers and
 officers in the Israel Defense Forces to strengthen their resolve.
 We are all ZAHAL.
 תרומה לשבועי לב ומחשב לעצמנו ישלח להם נחמה
 בעת כאבם והנדל מנשוא
 May He who heals the broken hearted and soothes
 their sorrow, send comfort at this time of great pain
 to all the families, and to all Israel.

In deepest sorrow and grief, we announce the death of
ABE MARGOLIS
 Kfar Sava - Cape Town
 The funeral will take place on Monday, February 10, 1997,
 at 2 p.m. at the Nordeau St. Cemetery, Kfar Sava.
 The bereaved family:
 Wife, Zaida
 Sons, Markie and Bernard
 Daughter-in-law, Janine
 Grandchildren, Bianca and Candice
 Brother and sister-in-law, Solly and Avra
 Margolis and family
 Sister, Etta Margalit

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of
 our member
DOROTHY TENEH
 For funeral details, please call 08-937-2823/4
 The family
 Kvutzat Shiller

**The National Officers and entire Membership of
 Canadian Hadassah - WIZO**
 express their deepest sympathy to the
Mishelker Family
 on the tragic loss of their son
GILAD
 Patricia Joy Alpert
 National President

AMIT Women
 expresses its sympathy to
 Dr. MAXINE MILLER
 Vice-chairperson, Israel Executive-Board
 on the loss of her brother
SIDNEY RIBAKOW ז"ל
 and extends condolences to the entire family
 Robin S. Kahn Dr. Ami Ze'evi Evelyn Blacher
 Chairperson Director General National President
 Israel Executive Board Reshet AMIT AMIT, USA

On the 40th anniversary of the death of
 our dear father and grandfather,
 the journalist
ERNST ZWI LASZLO ת"י
 we will visit his grave in Har Hamenuhot cemetery,
 Jerusalem, on Sunday, February 9, 1997, at 2:30 p.m.
 The family

our son
 our mother
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אפיאל ז"ל

Our sons, our brothers

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

The family has grown so large, some five million already, that we have difficulty recognizing each other. But in truth, we haven't been much of a family for a long time now, and for reasons other than size. The rifts are so many and so deep that we have come to resemble feuding tribes more than family, tribes who share the same space and even the same name but not the same values.

It was the little old ladies on buses this week who were the first to remind us of what we used to be. Little old ladies clucking and shaking their heads and waving their clenched fists in grief as the announcer on the radio recited the names of the helicopter victims. On virtually every bus, Little old Moroccan ladies grieving for the victims whoever they were because whoever they were was family. Reminding us of what we used to be and, in moments like this, still are.

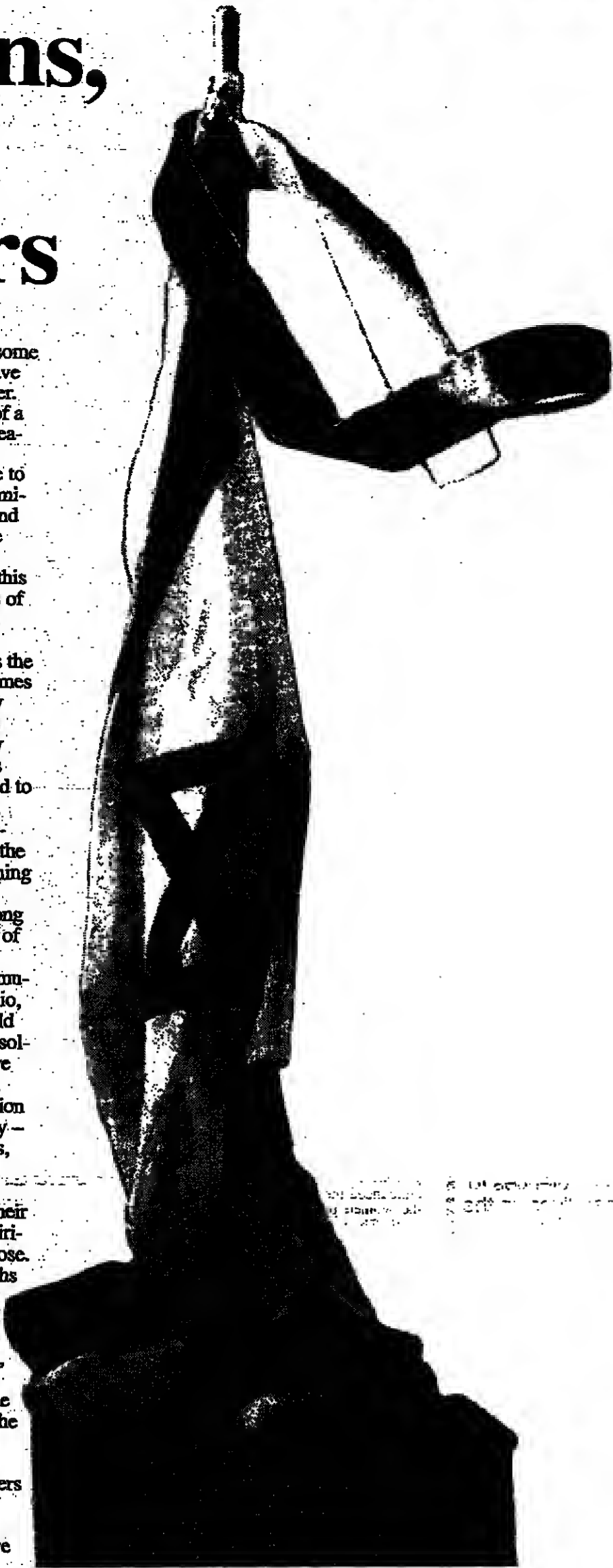
It is odd that numbers make a difference. Many soldiers have fallen over the years in the prime of their lives, touching those of us unconnected to them only fleetingly in their passing. We have long since hardened ourselves to the death of young men.

This time, gathered around the communal campfire that is television and radio, we found ourselves focusing. We could not help but focus on the death of 73 soldiers. The helicopter victims whom we found ourselves looking at were not a faceless mass. They were a cross-section of the nation, ethnically and politically — residents of kibbutzim and settlements, Hesder yeshiva students and secular spouses.

Yet they shared something beyond their uniforms — an affirmation of life, a spiritual kinship, a sense of common purpose. We saw them close up — in photographs but more tellingly in the testimony of family and friends.

With awesome dignity and self-control, awesome precision of expression, they made these beautiful young men come alive for us, made us party to the joy and promise of their lives and to the awful sense of loss at their departure.

We shared the families' grief to the point of tears. In their death, the soldiers had become our sons and brothers. In their death they had shown us, as a nation, who we are. Or at least who we can be.



A crumpled flag with black ribbon flies over the Tourism Ministry. (Brian Hessler)

Unity in agony

By HERS KENON

February, it seems, is a most cursed month.

A year ago this month the country was smitten by a bus bomb in Jerusalem. This horror was followed in quick succession by another bus bomb in Jerusalem, and a massive bomb at Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv.

Then, as now, the mood of the country was palpably somber. Then, as now, the faces of those killed smiled out at us from the red and black pages of the country's tabloids. Then, as now, dozens of lives were capsulized in two-

minute radio spots. Then, as now, relatives collapsed over fresh graves.

But there is a major difference.

Last year's tragedy was cause for division, for protests, for anger, for unseemly debate about who was ultimately to blame for the casualties, and who was "dancing on the blood." Arguments erupted between right and left at makeshift memorials that were set up at the location of the attacks. It was downright difficult to listen to the radio talk shows, because of the recriminations going back and forth.

The bus bombings were tragedies that, like the Rabin murder, split the nation, factionalized it.

What happened Tuesday night had the opposite effect.

Granted, there was anger following the crash: anger at fate, anger at having to be in Lebanon, anger at Hizbullah. But no anger at each other. The agony of the families and the ability of everyone to identify and empathize with them was a unifying force.

A few hours before the officially declared Day of Mourning went into effect on Wednesday, a restaurateur hung a sign in his downtown Jerusalem window that read: "Because of the sad occurrence, we are closing and joining

in the pain of the bereaved families."

That simple sign reflected the attitude of a nation.

Business did not, could not, continue as normal. Not because of a cabinet proclamation, not because of a government decision, but because people were just unable to go on with their lives as usual. The disaster was internalized — people took it home with them, to work with them, to bed with them. It sat heavy, very heavy, on the mind.

In times of tragedy, the tired axiom runs, Israel unites. Last year showed that this is not always the case. Tuesday's disaster showed that sometimes it still is.

Young pilots introduced to death

The young men of the IAF are the 'cream of the crop' — and now this. Arieh O'Sullivan talks to helicopter pilots

"I would rather have my wounds to heal again than hear say how I got them," *Coriolanus*, Act 2, Scene 2.

They have lost their swagger. Their talk is muted. They don't look up anymore when they walk. And that self-confident smile is now just a thin straight line under the nose.

Israeli helicopter pilots have seen better times.

"The results are very harsh. I personally, and my friends, are having very difficult feelings," said Maj. Y. a helicopter pilot and operations officer for Air Force activity in Lebanon.

The burden of responsibility on transport helicopters flying into a war zone, in foggy weather, is heavy. And if there is any guilt, it was certainly magnified by statements like those of Col. A, commander of the Nahal Brigade: "What took Hizbullah three years to do happened in one fell swoop."

But that's not really fair, is it? Pilots in Israel have traditionally been hailed as the cream of the crop, the "best," infallible. And then this.

But for the IDF in general and the Air Force in particular, the road to recovery is quick.

"I have flown many times in the Yasur," said Maj. Y., using the Hebrew name of the CH-53. "It is an excellent helicopter and the pilots chosen to fly them are among the best."

"We are not immune from mistakes. There should be no doubt about that. There are an unlimited number of scenarios that the pilot could have encountered. If it was possible to find a patent or a robot to solve these problems we would be better off. But that's not possible. You have to put people there and we may make mistakes."

It is easy to say that Hizbullah is also to blame for the deaths. They forced the IDF to seek alternatives to the vulnerable supply convoys moving on the open roads in the security zone. More than half of the soldiers killed in south Lebanon were felled by roadside bombs or booby traps. Here the

Air Force was providing what it believed to be a safe way to bypass these threats.

"We were presenting a possibility of taking soldiers into Lebanon other than on the ground, which was becoming more and more costly. The option of flying was expanding the possibilities of exchanging forces," said Maj. Y. himself a pilot of Apache helicopters. "The responsibility [among CH-53] pilots is very heavy. It accompanies them all the time."

Lt.-Col. G., a CH-53 pilot, said

"In some way it is like the first time you get behind the wheel after being involved in a traffic accident. Yes, there is a thought in your mind that you have to take more caution. But this is the prevalent feeling in all of the IAF," Lt.-Col. G. said.

The CH-53 is the workhorse of the Israeli airborne troops. The 1960s-vintage chopper has been upgraded with enhanced avionics and is considered safer and more dependable. But unlike fixed-winged aircraft, it can't glide, not even a little. So when the two CH-53s collided they dropped like stones.

The Air Force has a tradition of debriefing itself, and integrity among pilots has been enhanced with the introduction of videotaped flights from cameras in the cockpits. But there is no camera in the CH-53 and no black box, only a tape recorder in the cockpit. As pilots see it, the number of things that can go wrong is immense.

"This obligates us to know the regulations very well. Pilots are highly trained and disciplined to react to sudden and radical changes," said Maj. Y. "But you can't prepare yourself for everything."

The feeling among the military is that the crash was the result of human error, something the five-man commission of inquiry appointed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is trying to find out.

Naturally, after an accident of this magnitude, said 33-year-old Maj. Y., no one wanted to jump to hasty conclusions about the reasons for the collision.

"We need to wait for the results of the commission of inquiry," he said. "But we have to talk about this and get it out in the open. We can't keep it in. It is not easy. Pilots and airmen are usually closed people."

Pilots are not afraid, Maj. Y. said, only "concerned." "Concern is inseparable from professionalism. Whoever is not concerned



duced to death." He said recovering from the blow had to be done as quickly as possible.

"The atmosphere here is tough, very tough. There is this fear, but it is a part of the sad reality of the IAF."

—Lt.-Col. G.

Continued on Page 18

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Determined to maintain its political integrity and independence, the National Council of Shinui, under the leadership of M.K. Avraham Poraz, has decided not to join the United Meretz Party.

Shinui will continue to co-operate with United Meretz on all those issues which are held in common.

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For additional information please write, phone or fax to M.K. Avraham Poraz at Shinui office, 10 Rehov Ha'Arbah, Tel Aviv 64739 Telephone: 03-5620118 Fax: 03-5620139

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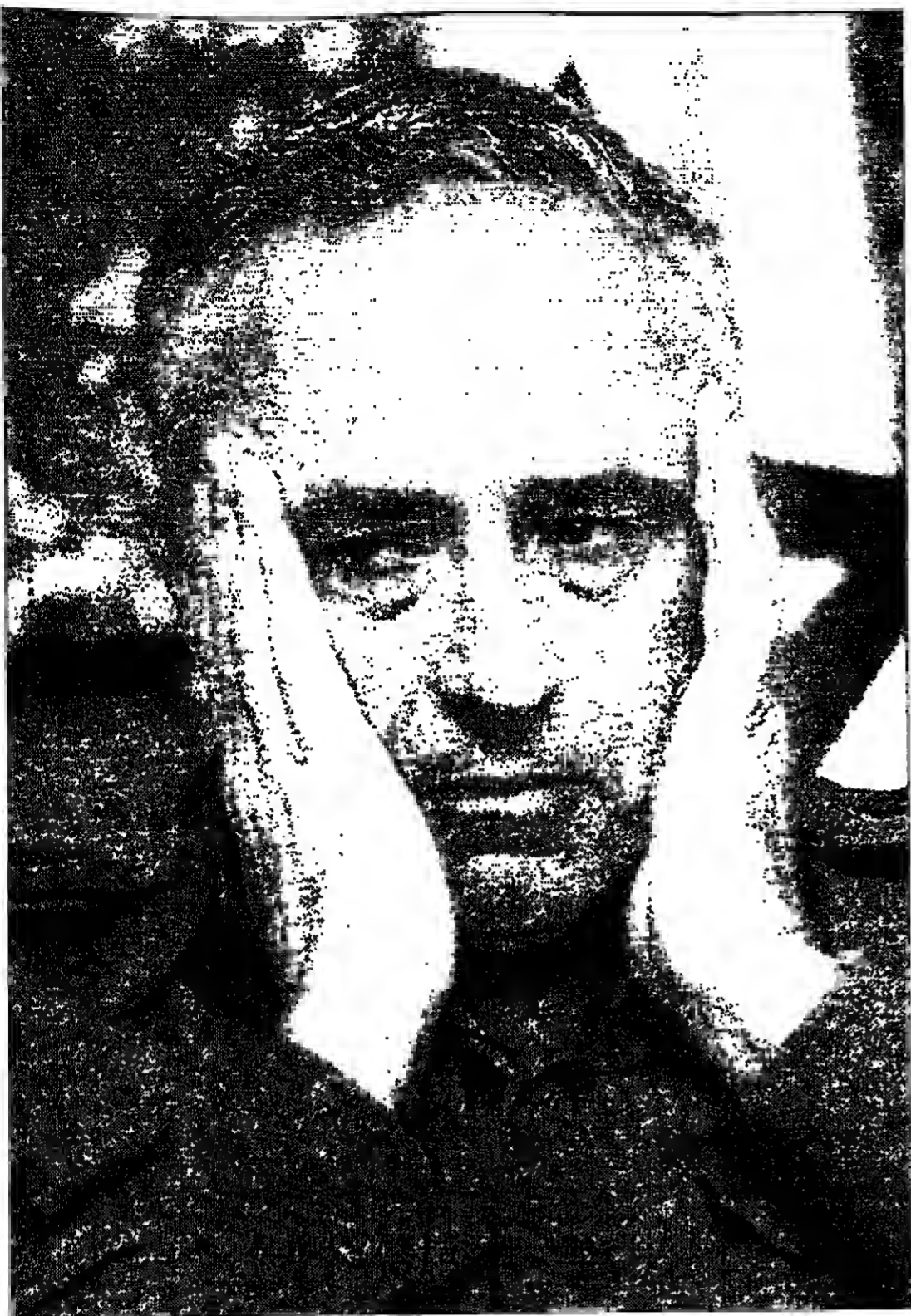
IGOLIS

TENEH

AD

IBAKOW

LASZL



Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak holds his face in his hands Wednesday at a press conference. (Reuters)

How do we cope with this?

Psychologists and sociologists believe that no one can avoid emotional confusion after such a tragedy, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports



A soldier weeps during the funeral of Tom Kita'in at Neveh Shalom. (AP)

‘W’as it the bad ones who killed them?’ asked a five-year-old boy, after being told by his kindergarten teacher Wednesday morning about the loss of 73 precious Israeli soldiers the night before. Inured to the routine of leading her pre-schoolers through reciting Psalms, venting fears and expressing anger after each terror or Katyusha attack they had heard about in their short lives, the teacher this time was at a loss for words. ‘Two of our helicopters collided in the air,’ she said after a moment. ‘It was an accident.’

‘There was no tangible enemy to blame this time, and psychologists and social workers analyzing this week’s national disaster suggested that such a situation makes coping even more difficult. ‘What we feel is not anger, but pain, shock, helplessness and sadness. If there were someone or some organization to blame, there would be a release to some of these feelings,’ says Prof. Zahava Solomon, a psychiatric epidemiologist at Tel Aviv University’s School of Social Work and a recognized expert in post-traumatic stress disorder.

‘Despite all the divisions in recent years, there are still underlying ties that make us a cohesive society, especially when such tragedies occur. These soldiers are all our children, even if we don’t recognize all their faces. The country called them to serve, and they went. They were on their way to Lebanon to protect our northern border,’ Solomon continues. ‘How can any Israeli not mourn their loss? We all plan for the long term, and it’s especially true of young people. But events such as these point to the fragility of human existence.

‘We’re the world champions in dealing with tragedy throughout our history.’

—Prof. Yisrael Orbach

‘We’re the world champions in dealing with tragedy throughout our history... It’s part of our identity — not that we wish it so or have asked for it. The Jew has been a victim, but the people survive.

and that is our victory,’ says Bar-Ilan University psychologist Prof. Yisrael Orbach. ‘But, of course, this doesn’t minimize the great personal loss of the families involved or the sadness in the nation.’

to war and they risk their lives. Who they lose them, we feel guilty.’ But Noy, who himself has a son serving now in Lebanon and waited anxiously to get a phone call like anyone else in the same situation this week, says the chain of losses doesn’t necessarily have a permanent effect on the soldiers’ willingness to defend the country.

Surprisingly, the telephones at Eran (Emotional First Aid) were significantly less busy than usual the day after the crash. ‘During the Scud attacks in the Gulf War, the phones were ringing off the hook because the people were full of anxiety,’ reports Tal Perry, the Jerusalem branch coordinator of the volunteer group. ‘All our volunteers called to ask if they should come in to help on Wednesday, but we saw there was no need. After such disasters, friends and

acquaintances naturally open up and talk about things. That gives support, and fewer need an anonymous voice over the phone line. And our regular callers who suffer from personal pressures and problems feel embarrassed to discuss such things, which are overshadowed by the personal and national losses of this tragedy. But we expect that the regular volume of calls will return in a few days.’

The accident in She’ar Yashuv ‘hits everyone emotionally,’ adds Prof. Haim Granot of Bar-Ilan University’s School of Social Work, who heads its mass-emergencies project. ‘I study disasters and their effects on organizations,’ says the New York-born researcher, ‘and in this country, there is never a shortage of

Continued on Page 18



The Kita'in family huddles tightly at Tom's funeral.

(Isaac Harari)

The end of innocence

Amy Klein reports on a funeral from a different kind of place — Neveh Shalom, the ‘oasis of peace’

It is hard to imagine that there were 72 other funerals like the one at Neveh Shalom for Sgt. Tom Kita'in. It is hard to believe that 72 other places witnessed the eerie images: a winding dirt path, sun shards piercing the gray blanket of sky, hundreds of soldiers — were placed on Tom Kita'in's grave.

One by one, white long-stemmed orchids from classmates, orange carnations from parents' friends, red wreaths from the bright green-bereted Nahal soldiers — were placed on Tom Kita'in's grave.

But the funeral at Neveh Shalom for Tom Kita'in was different from the other funerals. It did not take place in a military cemetery. There was no military salute, no firing of guns. That is because Neveh Shalom, like Tom, is different.

Founded in 1972 to promote peace and coexistence between Arabs and Jews, Neveh Shalom today has 30 families — 15 Arab and 15 Jewish — living, working and now, mourning together. Tom Kita'in, age 20, was the first male soldier from this unique place to go into the army. He is their first tragedy.

Neveh Shalom is located near Latrun, on the Jerusalem/Tel Aviv highway. Hanging on the edge of the 100-member settlement, the cemetery overlooks verdant fields and the palatial Latrun monastery.

The funeral was somber. There were no loud sobs, no outbursts; quiet tears streamed down the faces of even the professional TV photographers. The Kita'ins — Boaz, Daniella, and their three other children, Yonatan, 18, Amit, 14, Orit, 10 — huddled tightly in front of Tom's grave.

The Kita'ins moved to Neveh Shalom in 1985 from Kibbutz Shoval. Boaz grew up at Shoval and Daniella did her army service there, also in the Nahal unit like Tom. They are both educators: Boaz is the education principal at the elementary school and Daniella works with groups on conflict resolution.

‘The Kita'ins are a family of

highly principled people who always worry about values of peace and equality,’ said Abdessalam Najjar, who was Tom's teacher from age nine through 13 at Neveh Shalom's School for Peace.

The School for Peace is Neveh Shalom's elementary school. It is

Neveh Shalom today has 30 families — 15 Arab and 15 Jewish — living, working, and now, mourning together.

also the only school in the country which is fully binational and bilingual, where Arabs and Jews — and their holidays, laws, and customs — are treated as fully equal. One hundred twenty-seven students attend the School for Peace, 40 from Neveh Shalom, the rest from nearby Arab and Jewish settlements.

‘Today Arabs and Israelis marched behind the coffin of an Israeli soldier,’ said Najjar. ‘But Tom wasn't a just a soldier. He was our son. He grew up with my children.’

The children of Neveh Shalom go to school together from nursery until the end of eighth grade. For high school they separate to Arab and Israeli schools. But the real separation is the army. On this oasis of cooperation, the reality that Israelis serve and Palestinians don't is something they have grown up with. And on this day of their first army casualty, the community is united.

‘As your Palestinian teacher, Jewish soldier, so many Palestinians cry,’ Najjar said in

joins points, but if there are no points the street is meaningless.’ Perhaps this best expressed that Tom was a true child of Neveh Shalom: ‘A path is different because it has meaning every step of the way.’

‘WE SPEND a lot of time working together towards coexistence and peace,’ says Najjar, who is sure that it won't affect relations between Jewish and Arab families in Neveh Shalom.

‘But we will have to be more realistic. The reality is that people here should be used to deaths. We are not special or different from anyone else.’

Anwar Daoud, the principal at the School for Peace, thinks that Tom's death shows that Neveh Shalom is not working hard enough.

‘On a personal level I am very sad. Tom was my student, my neighbor, my colleague's son. But on a political level I am very angry. We haven't worked hard enough to stop the war in South Lebanon.’

Daoud mentions the five MKs who had paid their respects to the family that day: ‘The MKs should come here on a regular day to learn from us. If we can influence people today, we should work together to make long-term changes.’

It shouldn't be in vain

This poem was read at Tom's funeral by a friend of the family on behalf of his mother:

To my son, two weeks old:

My little son, you are the one who knows
Out of all the mothers you chose me
May we give one another love and sorrow
happiness and worry
And that it all shouldn't be in vain
Please, that it all shouldn't be in vain

سنة ١٤١٧

Advertisement for 'The end of innocence' featuring a photo of a young man and text including 'DRIVE SLOW', 'DRIVE WITH', and 'UO VAL'.

The eye of the pilot

The developers of the Yasur helicopter have tried to accommodate every safety feature possible in its design, but humans still have to operate it, and they are not fault-free. Steve Rodan reports

Nehemia Dagan recalls flying a routine test of the Yasur helicopter in the Negev 20 years ago when he felt the chopper smack into something. Part of the main rotor blade snapped and the helicopter began to fall from a height of about 10,000 feet.

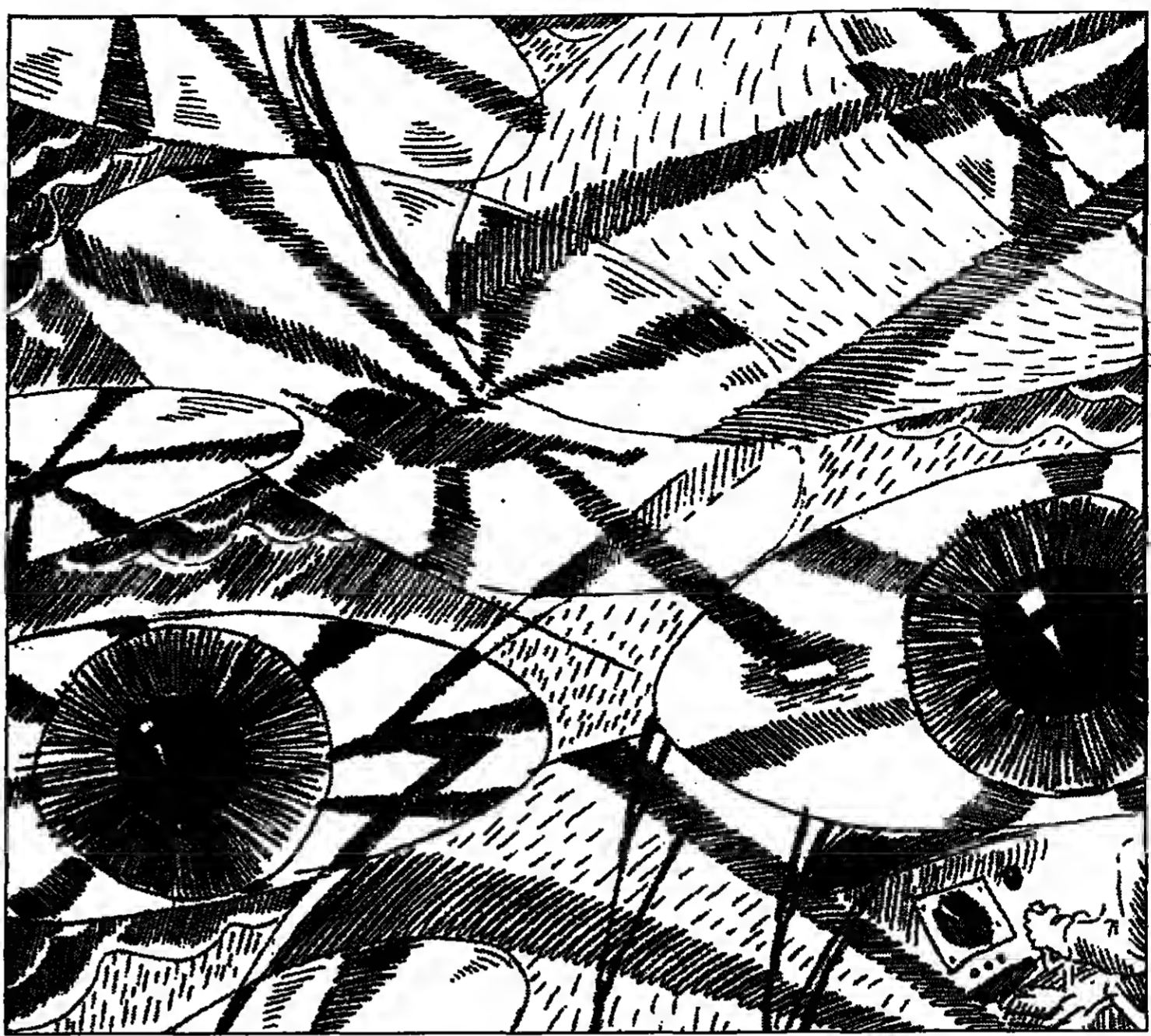
Minutes later, the helicopter crashed and caught fire. The miracle: Dagan and his crew survived. "There are different types of accidents," recalls the 57-year-old Dagan, who rose to the rank of brigadier general and commander of a Yasur squadron. "When the helicopter hits something, the rotor blades break and you can't land. You just fall." For the two Yasur helicopters and their 73 passengers this week, there was no escape.

Pilots who fly the Yasur compare it to a Mack truck in the sky. Manufactured by Sikorsky Aircraft, of Stratford, Connecticut, the CH-53, the biggest helicopter in the West, has been in the Israel Air Force since 1969. It is a huge aircraft that can transport up to 65 passengers and a crew of two pilots and a mechanic. The helicopter has a range of 413 kilometers and a maximum speed of 315 kilometers per hour.

Months after the first Yasur, the Hebrew name of the US-made CH-53, arrived in Israel, the helicopter started earning a reputation for excellence. In December 1969, two Yasur helicopters slipped deep into Egypt and carried off an entire Soviet radar station at Ras Arub. The transport helicopter was used extensively during the 1973 Yom Kippur War and 1982 Operation Peace for Galilee. Today, the IAF has 42 such helicopters, according to the Middle East Military Balance of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. "It is extremely reliable and very heavy," Dagan, today the head of foreign operations for the United Jewish Appeal, says. "There is no substitute for the Yasur." Indeed, many who have flown the Yasur say the weakest element in the helicopter is the pilot. In the IAF, the courses for flying a Yasur are long. A pilot must first undergo a basic course, then learn

Other than that, pilots say, the Yasur is unstoppable under any condition. The helicopter, particularly the upgraded Yasur 2000, is equipped with state-of-the-art avionics, armor and radar that allow it to fly in virtually any weather. Pilots say that the helicopter is virtually problem-free. Still, no instrument can take the place of the human eye. "The pilot has to know what awaits him," says Maj. Yigal, a reserve Yasur pilot with 25 years experience. "He has to know what he might encounter on his mission." The challenges of a Yasur helicopter could be numerous. Transporting troops into enemy territory means the Yasur's two pilots have to ensure correct flight path and altitude, and detect anti-aircraft fire and a landing target. In poor weather, the biggest danger to a pilot is vertigo, where he is so dizzy that he is unable to determine his position. At that point, the pilot must rely on his instruments and resist the

instinct to steer the huge helicopter out of any imagined danger. "Vertigo happened to me. It happens to many of us," said Yigal, who did not want his full name used. "It's an important part of flying and the question is how fast you can recover from it." Ben-Peretz agrees, saying the pilot must be most aware of his surroundings when he is about to land. "The problem of seeing is critical in the landing," he says. "You have to see where you are. A plane can land by instrumentation. A helicopter cannot." The margin of error in helicopters is extremely narrow. Yasur pilots say. Unlike planes, military helicopters on missions are trained to fly at the lowest altitude possible to avoid enemy radar. One false move can send the helicopter burbling toward the ground, and at that point, the crew is virtually helpless. "The basic difference between a plane and a helicopter is that in a plane you have an ejector seat," says Lt.-Col. Dahi, who flew the Yasur from 1971 to 1994. "You have a last chance. In the helicopter, there is no ejector seat because of the propeller above." When the pilot loses control, the Yasur becomes a death trap. In 1977, 54 paratroopers and helicopter crew were killed when a Yasur crashed near Jericho. A committee of inquiry determined that the helicopter was overloaded and flew too close to the ground. "In my 20 years of flying the Yasur, I didn't encounter any serious technical problems," Dahi says. "The human error is clearly the dominant factor. Most of the accidents have been the result of human error." An Air Force study of accidents from 1982 to 1994 said 43 percent of the most serious helicopter crashes stemmed from human error. More than a quarter of accidents stemmed from error by the ground crew. Less than a third of the accidents could be traced to technical failure. The most recent Yasur crash before this week's collision was in the Judean desert on March 31, 1996, when seven crew members were killed. The investigation of the accident has not been completed



ed but military sources say the likely cause was human error. Privately, many Yasur pilots say this was probably the cause of Tuesday's collision. Although the Yasur is not equipped with a black box, its internal cockpit conversations are recorded and investigators say they usually have enough evidence to determine the cause of the lion's share of helicopter accidents. IDF sources say the investigation of this week's crash has so far not found any indication of a technical failure aboard either of the Yasurs. The chances of human error appear more likely during bad weather. One hard rule for pilots is to avoid flying through low clouds, particularly in mountainous regions. Bad weather is a tough enough mission when the Yasur is flying alone. But when two helicopters are cruising together, the dangers multiply. "You have to use a lot of instruments that give you a lot of options. But what determines things in the end is the eye of the pilot," says Lt.-Col. S., who is familiar with the current Yasur

squadron and just wanted the initial of his first name used. "The Yasur must land so in the end you have to see. There's no replacement for the eyes." Still, the manufacturers of the Yasur have tried to include every possibility. If one engine fails, there is always another. If the avionic system breaks down, there is a backup. But there is no replacement for the rotor blade. Pilots say if as little as a meter of the blade is missing - about 4 percent of its length - the result is loss of balance and free-fall. "If that is cut, you're finished," says S. "There's no chance." Just about every helicopter veteran can recall his brush with death. For S., however, the

potential damage would have been unprecedented in Israeli history. It was soon after the Yom Kippur War and the entire cabinet and the chief of staff were on board the Yasur flying over Gaza, returning from a ceremony in which Egypt handed over the remains of Israeli spies it had executed in the 1950s. Suddenly, S. felt the Yasur jerk out of control. Part of the rotor blade had snapped. The pilot knew he had to land immediately or Israel would no longer have a government or military brass. Indeed, after the episode, the government decided that ministers would never fly together.

"The helicopter was shaking," S. recalls. "I had a very uncomfortable feeling. It took several minutes to land. I had enough time to think that I might not be able to do this." But S. did not let this close call stop him from flying his next mission. Yasur veterans say the loss of so many soldiers, as painful as it was, is a daily risk of a pilot's profession. The crash will not make them hesitate from continuing to carry out their duties. As they see it, pilots live to fly. "We don't say that this can't happen us," Dagan, the brigadier, says. "But it doesn't stop anybody. All pilots know is that they have to fly."

Vertigo happens to many of us. The question is how fast you can recover from it.
—Major Yigal

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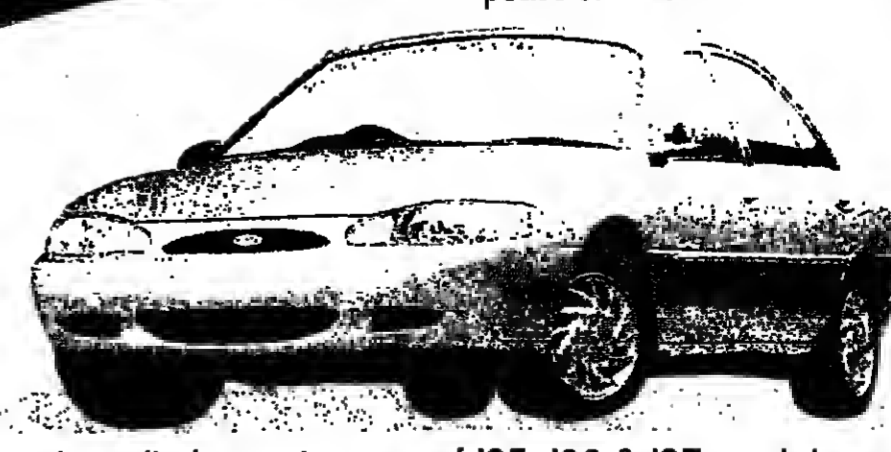
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Rethinking southern Lebanon

A public debate on a unilateral withdrawal from the security zone could gain speed as a result of the helicopter collision, David Makovsky writes

The tragic deaths of 73 IDF soldiers have had a numbing effect, but Tuesday's helicopter accident, more than Hizbullah attacks, could give way to something the public has not witnessed since Israel established the security zone in 1985: a public debate about whether the IDF should unilaterally withdraw from southern Lebanon.

It has been difficult to raise the issue of an Israeli pullback from south Lebanon; inevitably, debate is stifled by those who equate merely raising the issue with a prize for Hizbullah attacks.

Moreover, since only elite units serve in southern Lebanon, unlike the broad swath of reserves who have done duty over the years in the West Bank and Gaza, much of the public does not think about Lebanon as it does about the Palestinian issue.

This may change soon. Even before this week's searing tragedy, there were preliminary signals that calls for withdrawal could gain new force.

This week, ex-war hero and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani became the first minister in the Netanyahu government to call for a unilateral pullback from southern Lebanon.

At a seminar at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies last week, Labor Party leadership candidate Yossi Beilin said: "Our soldiers have turned into sitting ducks for Hizbullah. We need to get out of Lebanon unilaterally with the aid of a third party."

Beilin believes Israel's capability to use massive force in the event of violation, combined with the imposition of a force like France to patrol southern Lebanon and fill the vacuum created by Israel's absence is something that should be considered.

Driving the statements of both Beilin and Kahalani are their conclusions about the status quo. First, over the last 15 years, Israel has been unable to develop a winning strategy in dealing with Hizbullah, despite trying an endless variety of military tactics.

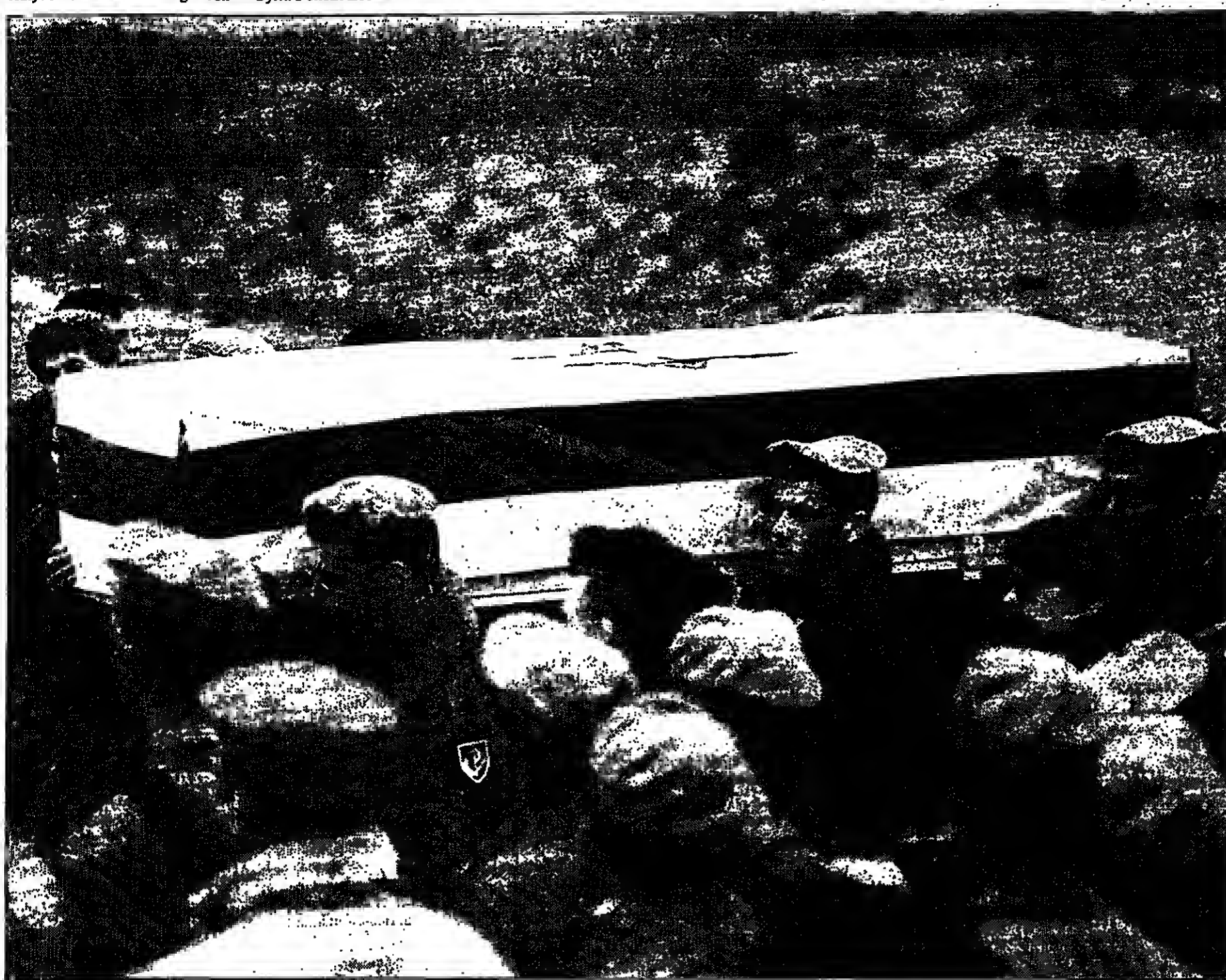
The only result is that Hizbullah has grown stronger. There are virtually no security officials who believe that Hizbullah can be crushed, despite repeated threats by IDF commanders over the last 15 years following fatal incidents.

When Israel first arrived in Lebanon, it was greeted by local Shi'ites with rice. When it refused to leave due to security concerns, it was greeted with Katyushas. Hizbullah has grown as a guerrilla movement, partly due to public support among residents in southern Lebanon, who are grateful to it for winning exemptions from Israeli bombing of villages due to understandings reached in the aftermath of Operation Accountability and Grapes of Wrath.

Moreover, as Foreign Minister David Levy pointed out this week, Iranian military resupply of Hizbullah has sharply increased. US officials confirm that in the

past, three Iranian planes per year would provide arms for Hizbullah. Now that figure is up to three planes per month. And Beilin and Kahalani also note that if Hizbullah desires, it can use new technology to fire rockets at northern border towns beyond the range of the security zone which was set up 12 years ago under different conditions, namely when the Katyushas had shorter-range rock-

ets. Now, the security zone cannot protect against Hizbullah, should the organization seek to fire Katyushas at northern border towns.



The fatalities from this week's accident may speed up discussion of a withdrawal from southern Lebanon quicker than any Hizbullah attack has ever done. (AP)

ets. Now, the security zone cannot protect against Hizbullah, should the organization seek to fire Katyushas at northern border towns.

Another of their conclusions is that a pullback from southern Lebanon has moved from the backburner to front and center, ironically, due to the Netanyahu government's refusal to yield the entire Golan. Since Syria has said

Labor believed that one of the key benefits of yielding the Golan Heights to Syria would be a "package deal," namely attaining the consent of Damascus to have the Lebanese Army deploy southward and disarm Hizbullah.

Hence, whenever someone privately came to Yitzhak Rabin or Shimon Peres urging an Israeli pullback in Lebanon, their answer was essentially: a package deal is on the way.

When he came into office, Netanyahu thought there was a negotiated alternative to the package-deal approach.

The Netanyahu government hoped to obtain explicit Syrian consent to negotiate a Lebanese pullback involving deployments of the Lebanese Army in the south. This idea became dubbed as "Lebanon

ued presence in southern Lebanon can be exploited by Syria as an excellent pressure point for the Golan negotiations.

If Israel leaves Lebanon, Syria figures there will be no Israeli domestic backing for a Golan deal. Therefore, it is no coincidence that Kahalani is the first minister to call for a pullback from Lebanon, since he founded his Third Way party to halt a Golan withdrawal. Moreover, this call has been endorsed by Beilin, who says, "I am very dubious that Syrian President Hafez Assad has indeed made a strategic decision for peace." In short, the less the Golan option is alive, the more the future of southern Lebanon is

WITHOUT EITHER a winning strategy to demolish Hizbullah or

pullout from Lebanon. Hence, the unilateral approach fills a conceptual vacuum. Beilin and Kahalani believe such a pullback is also feasible.

The Labor MK believes Israel's deterrent capability to use massive force in the event of violation combined with the imposition of a force like France to patrol southern Lebanon and fill the vacuum of Israel's absence should be something that Israel should consider.

Indeed, over the last year, France's Foreign Minister Herve de Charette has frequently offered to deploy French troops in the area. A country like France, which may not be one of Israel's favorites, could have more leverage, the Beilin argument goes. Specifically, if Israel is seen as

clearly trying to withdraw from Arab territory, subsequent infiltrations across the border by the Syrian-backed Hizbullah would entangle Damascus with the European country it cares the most about, France.

At the same time, Israel would not be placing its security in the hands of foreigners since Israel retains overwhelming military deterrent strength, the proponents

life in the north won't be without suffering from Hizbullah and Palestinian terror." He continued, "the question from a military point of view is where do we prefer to confront them when civilians are the target? I propose not to withdraw."

Ya'alon's statements reflect the views of the security establishment, which consistently has opposed a unilateral approach. Curiously, the US has also shunned the unilateral approach. In a briefing for reporters this week, a US official spoke of a possible security vacuum in southern Lebanon in the event of an Israeli pullout. Yet some suspect that Washington also fears that such a pullback could shatter long-held hopes for an Israel-Syria peace treaty.

A CRUCIAL question in evaluating whether the Beilin-Kahalani

Our soldiers have turned into sitting ducks for Hizbullah. We need to get out of Lebanon unilaterally with the aid of a third party.

—Yossi Beilin

idea would win Syrian acquiescence is distinguishing it from

Netanyahu's failed solitary effort of last summer. The main distinction would be the involvement of the international community, and its willingness to back-use troops and other means to shore up its support.

While Syria does not want a unilateral Israeli pullback due to a weakening of leverage on the Golan, some argue it would be constrained internationally from enabling Hizbullah to use an Israeli departure as a springboard for further attacks. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has indicated that if Israel leaves in accordance with UN Resolution 425, the Lebanese Army would indeed deploy in the south as Israel has wished.

Unknowns remain. Clear statements by Syria, Lebanon, Hizbullah and Iran about their response to a unilateral withdrawal are crucial before Israel can make any decisions. Governments like France, which argue that Israel should just withdraw from Lebanon, need to do some basic groundwork.

They need to obtain unambiguous public — not private — statements from the leaders of all four about how they would react to an Israeli withdrawal. Moreover, apart from setting up patrols in southern Lebanon, this would have to be matched by a willingness to impose a variation of international sanctions or military actions against these parties in the event that they violate their word. This obviously must be supplemented with an understanding between the IDF and foreign forces that Israel cannot stand idly by if infiltrations continue subsequent to a pullback from southern Lebanon.

Once these variables are clarified, the government and the public will have the information needed to decide whether or not to pull back. Terms for such a pullback have yet to be met, but at least a 12-year-old policy is now being rethought.

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GRAPEVINE

She could have danced all night

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

It takes a lot of courage for a non-professional to dance across the stage of the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts, but when Ya'acov Mazar, husband of Tel Aviv city councilwoman Miki Mazar, held out his hand to Ludmilla Tichon, the wife of Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, she could hardly refuse. In fact they were the first couple of only a handful to allow the music to get to their feet. The occasion was a NIS 500 a plate, on-stage banquet as a kick-off to the fund-raising activities of Li-Lach, the women's voluntary association which operates children's club houses and assists single-parent families, new immigrants, the elderly and ex-convicts in the greater Tel Aviv area.

Dalia and Avi Pelosof, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, Elisheva Milo, representing her husband Mayor Roni Milo, who had other commitments, hotelier Ami Federman, car importers Rachel and Rami Ungar, and Korean ambassador to Israel Dongsoon Park, who is winding up his three-year term. Park's wife Eun-Joo and members of the embassy staff stood out in their colorful national costumes which contrasted strongly with the black suits and dresses worn by the overwhelming majority of the guests.



Ludmilla Tichon and Ya'acov Mazar glide to the music at the 'on-stage' fundraiser for Li-Lach. (Paz Bar)

GUESTS AT the elegant Li-lach affair, the striking decor for which was unmistakably Michael Stern's, rose out of the audience onto the stage to the accompaniment of 12-year-old piano prodigy Boris Ginsburg, a fourth-generation musician who has appeared as a soloist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Amongst the merry-makers were Li-Lach chairperson Varda Zackheim and her husband Shear, Friends of Li-Lach chairman Yossi Landesman and his wife Muki,

ALTHOUGH SHE stumbled over a word or two, Maatchen Land, the vivacious wife of South African ambassador Frank Land, acquitted herself beyond her own expectations when she delivered a welcoming speech in Hebrew at a brunch in her Ramat Gan home. Repeating her greetings in English, she said that she would spare guests all of the 11 official languages of South Africa. Everyone present received a multi-colored beaded brooch, which Land described as "a symbol of the new South Africa, which means together we can make a difference."

Most of the women were so impressed that they immediately pinned the brooches to their suit jackets. Aside from diplomatic wives, guests included international matchmaker Helena

Amram, fashion-show moderator the International Women's Club, and modeling-school proprietor Ilana Margalit, Esther Lucas of cosmetics Sarit Shaham who runs the cosmetic treatments ceo-

ter at the Dan Panorama, and Eileen Finkelstein, the recently elected chairperson of Beit Prota, the Herzliya retirement home for former South Africans.

ALTHOUGH HE'S the master of all he surveys at Jerusalem's Renaissance hotel, where he is the representative for the owners, Harvey Douglan actually prefers being in other hotels. Why? "If something goes wrong," he explains, "I can always say thank goodness, this wasn't in my hotel." But if truth be told, Douglan would rather be home with his PC. Absolutely hooked on surfing the Internet, he gets withdrawal symptoms when he's away for too long.

DUE TO be a daddy by the end of the month, Michael Jackson is taking his impending fatherhood very seriously and has already invested a million dollars in sprucing up the baby's room in a 15th-century French castle. Jackson Jr. is also going to have a super-special nanny. Papa Michael is so particular about who's going to be an influential factor in his baby's life that he has interviewed over a hundred candidates. He's also going to fork out another million dollars to a Japanese plastic surgeon who's going to give him a more manly appearance which will make him look more like a real dad.

SHARING THE spotlight with Madonna certainly gave Antonio Banderas a claim to fame. But he's not quite well known enough to have ordinary mortals fawning at his feet. Case in point was when he attended one of the many gala screenings of *Evita*. Banderas made the mistake of going into the foyer for a smoke. But when he wanted to go back inside the usher refused to believe that he and the man on the screen were one and the same, and wouldn't let him past the door.

TALK ABOUT a global village. The bride, supermodel Naomi Campbell, comes from Britain, the Italian groom Luca Orlando owns fashion boutiques in New York, and the couple, who met seven months ago, where else but at a fashion show, are planning a July wedding in Paris with hundreds of guests from all over the world.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

The avengers ride into battle with the media

By MICHAEL TUDELMAN

After skirmishes with the military establishment, the justice system and the police, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his trusty warriors have now girded their loins to battle the media — or "The Media" as the collective entity becomes when they enter it.

In fact, the Netanyahu camp, officered by Prime Minister's Office director-general Avigdor Lieberman, has engaged the media in a running battle since before the election.

After a brief period of relative disengagement, the Deri/Bar-On/Hebron scandal as reported by Channel 1 triggered off a renewed onslaught from the ramparts of the Prime Minister's Office. The campaign continued over the weekend in Davos, Switzerland, in between luxury dinners and ponderous summit meetings. Netanyahu made full use of the television cameras and radio mikes to vent his complaints against the media.

The Israeli media played along with the game like a mouse mesmerized by the python that's about to crush it. They covered every trivial aspect of the trip, from Bibi wining and dining to Bibi falling off skis. Mercifully, there appeared to be no camels in Davos!

Taking his cue from Netanyahu and Lieberman, Shas spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef decided to join the avengers and rescue the lost honor of those slandered in the Deri/Bar-On affair — mainly the "beloved" Aryeh Deri himself, as Yosef called him.

Yosef tagged onto the line of politicians ostensibly boycotting Channel 1 in favor of giving exclusive interviews to Channel 2. "The avengers" happened, by coincidence, to be those in the procession of notables trooping off to police headquarters for questioning this week — Deri, Lieberman, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Likud functionary David Appel and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

But, ha! ha!, they would show that Ayala Hasson (who broke the Bar-On story) and they would teach Rafik Halaby (Channel 1 news director) a lesson. They would deprive them of their lofty views. In fact, as public figures, they were doing a disservice to all television viewers. In a democracy those are the ones who dutifully pay TV taxes and are entitled to the most comprehensive news coverage the only public broadcasting network in the country can provide. That doesn't mean just the coverage that pleases a gaggle of peeved and dubious politicians.



Rabbi Yosef decided to join 'the avengers.' (Isaac Harari)



Interior Minister Suissa discovered some en'light'ening facts about summertime. (Harari)

already had promised Netanyahu firmly that Shas was behind the agreement? So who is lying? Yosef? Deri? Channel 1's political commentator Yaron Dekel wondered if it was all another media manipulation on Netanyahu's part to pressure Yasser Arafat.

And who, tell us who, is Hasson's "deep throat"? Is it a police source as Deri suggested? Is it Avi-Yitzhak, as politicians suggested? Is it Hanegbi, as a reliable source suggested? Confused? Don't worry, it gets worse. "Oh what a tangled web we weave..." and the rest rhymes with "deceive." Stay tuned for next week's episode.

SHADY TIME

Israel has a longer, hotter summer than our neighbors in Europe. Yet instead of enjoying longer daylight hours Israelis seem fated to rise when the sun is already beating down and spend the balmy summer evenings in darkness.

It's all because Shas is intent on scoring yet another political point by shortening daylight-saving time from last year's 185 days to this year's planned 175 days, and next year's 145 days. Whither next — 145 days? After Shas quit Yitzhak Rabin's government, former interior minister Ehud Barak bumped summer time to 185 days in 1996 with a promise to stretch it to a realistic 222 days. This would have extended daylight saving time to October 31, in step with the European Union.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa, of Shas, it was revealed this week, has been sitting on a survey conducted for the Knesset Interior Committee last year.

The survey, done by Teleset, revealed that a large majority of Jewish society, including the religious and even haredi sectors, favor longer-summer daylight. And why not — most of the world likes long summer evenings after work to spend with the family and friends while the children play or finish their homework in daylight. Only in the haredi sector was there close to a balance between those for and against longer daylight saving.

All other research and experience has shown that working in the earlier, cooler morning hours saves the economy millions of shekels in lighting and air conditioning, increases productivity, and lowers the traffic accident rate.

Yet haredim insist that summer time ends before the pre-High Holy Day daily penitentiary prayers, saying it forces them to rise earlier for prayers and leaves insufficient time to pray before work.

Reason would suggest that if they get up earlier to pray, they would start work earlier, too, and finish it sooner to be with their families.

Apparently not — or rather, apparently that's not the point. As Ha'aretz economic editor Nehemia Strasser said: "The haredi was political in essence. They want to prove that they are stronger than their [Labor] predecessors Ehud Barak and Haim Ramon. They will shorten daylight saving, as even if it doesn't serve the interests of their own people."

PLOT THICKENER

Now what really happened in the Deri/Bar-On/Hebron affair? This was being asked, as is their right, by everyone from this column's bairdresser to the violinist on Dizengoff Street. The more people the police question, the more confusing it all becomes. So what do we have so far? Appel is a party hack who clearly has no business whatsoever being involved in the appointment of the state's attorney-general. He does not deny discussing Bar-On's candidacy with Deri. He even bragged that had he wanted the appointment to go through, "it would have worked like a Swiss clock." (Maybe he meant like a Swiss bank account.)

Appel also said he saw the shortlist of candidates and decided Dan Avi-Yitzhak was no good for the post.

Deri — a man, let us recall, who is on lengthy trial for criminal offenses — admits nixing the appointment of his own attorney, Avi-Yitzhak, who was also Netanyahu's preferred candidate, in favor of Bar-On.

Deri and Appel were questioned at the same time to prevent them from coordinating their testimonies, police gravely informed us. (What was to prevent them from rehearsing a joint story, if necessary, before attending the scheduled questioning?) The police know someone lied to them during the investigation and that attempts to continue their probe though not on the same road as the Channel 1 story took.

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef says it was he who told Deri to sabotage the Avi-Yitzhak appointment.

Yosef also said Shas had made it clear to Netanyahu weeks earlier that it supported the Hebron agreement unconditionally. What then was the meaning of a statement two days before the cabinet vote on the agreement, by Yebuda Avidan, Deri's own assistant, saying Shas had not yet decided whether to support it or not?

A reminder here — according to Hasson's story on Channel 1, Deri was threatening to block the Hebron agreement unless Bar-On was appointed attorney-general. How could he do that if Yosef

BRULIK

by DOSH



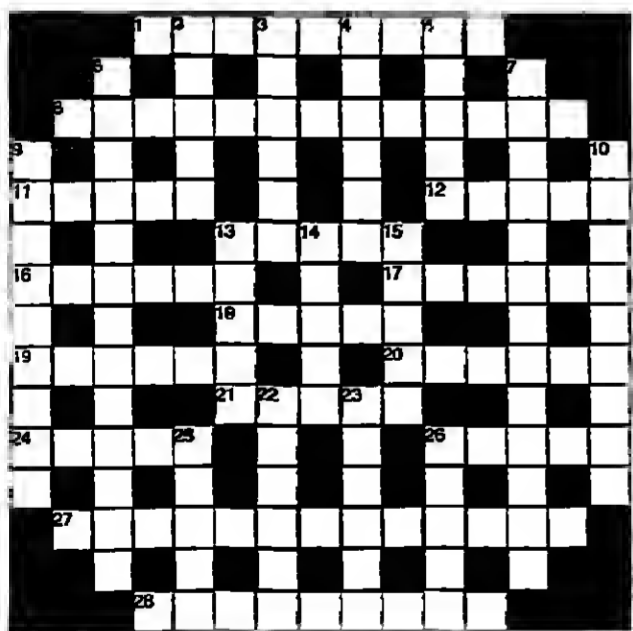
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

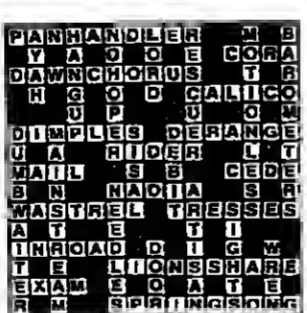
- 1 Understand new paper that leads to hospital closure (9)
- 8 Build-up of people in favour of time-share? (13)
- 11 Blackguard has to go back in regret (5)
- 12 Torrid at the Spanish watering-hole (5)
- 13 Low sound to develop at length (5)
- 16 Clumsily sat on a piece of piano-music (6)
- 17 Run rings round chump at Oxford University (6)
- 18 Prime cheese set before female (6)
- 19 Cubist roughly depicting small restaurant (5)
- 20 Hide paintings of military display? (6)

DOWN

- 2 Vehemently deny England's opener is poor? (5)
- 24 Women warm up cereal (5)
- 26 Greet tousel bird on the shore (5)
- 27 Half the doings disguised in this stagecraft (7,2,4)
- 28 Senior civil servant close a line? (9)
- 3 Right behind 15 beam (6)
- 4 Heavy quarrel in school? (6)
- 5 Mark in the nick (5)
- 6 Hang back purposely in enlarged shoes, repaired (4,4,5)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 7 Sirtas, 8 Steppes, 10 Anquish, 11 Paros, 12 Looe, 13 Trunk, 17 Thrk, 18 Looe, 23 Quota, 23 Loggaga, 24 Infom, 25 Corria.
DOWN: 1 Asaanit, 2 Brigand, 3 Copid, 4 Stpend, 5 Spire, 6 Jewel, 9 Shortfall, 14 Theatre, 15 Nomadic, 18 Levaret, 19 Equip, 20 Corra, 21 Agree.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Region of N France (7)
- 5 One cubic decimetre (5)
- 8 River-nymph (5)
- 9 Liverpool racecourse (7)
- 10 Warm and friendly (7)
- 11 Brilliant success (5)
- 12 Most excellent (6)
- 14 Coma, torpor (6)
- 17 City in N Italy (5)
- 19 Dance (7)
- 22 Smallpox (7)
- 23 Aquatic bird (5)
- 24 Out of bed (5)
- 25 Sovereignty (7)

DOWN

- 1 Great alarm (5)
- 2 Twitter (7)
- 3 Spokes (5)
- 4 Annually (6)
- 5 Clement (7)
- 6 Province of W Austria (5)
- 7 Voter (7)
- 12 Russian tea-wm (7)
- 13 Dilapidated (3-4)
- 15 Sunshade (7)
- 16 Weaken in strength (6)
- 18 Frolics, capers (5)
- 20 Monetary unit of Poland (5)
- 21 Believe, assuage (5)

5 ONE-DAY TRIPS with Shorashim & The Jerusalem Post Travel Club

Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

Thursday March 6

A DAY LIKE NO OTHER
Israel is not associated with heavy industry, and yet... This tour will visit the Haifa Bay, including the Oil Refineries, the Kih Aluminium Works, the shipyards, workshops and navy base, plus a boat tour of the bay. We bet you've never seen this part of Israel.
NIS 190 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Dr. Yoash Zohar

Monday March 17

LAND OF MILK AND HONEY
Cheese, honey, olive oil and wine - we'll taste them all on our way. We'll start at the organic dairy of Kihl, and continue on to the olive oil press at the Druse village of Yannah, then the prize-winning Dalton winery. We'll also visit the bee hives of Shadmet Dvora and its silk production unit. The Galilee is especially beautiful at this time of the year. Join us!
NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Israel Shalev

Tuesday March 25

IRISES ARE BLOOMING IN GILBOA
Every year in March it happens. Irises cover Mt. Gilboa. They are the largest, most beautiful and colorful, and some are yellow. We'll visit Nahal Toot on the trail of Ippina, the "Cyclamen Hill" of Gilad and Givat Hamoreh. Lunch at Kibbutz Tirt Zvi.
NIS 185 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Hagar Leshtner

Thursday April 3

ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitalier Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land, the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.
NIS 175
Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday April 24

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family.
NIS 215 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Danny Weiss

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% off when you book all five tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.
Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

CORRECTION

Advertisement for Clark's... featuring a large image of a product container and text including 'CLARK', 'U.S. STORE AND CO.', and 'DISCOUNT'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

העיתון הכלכלי

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, February 7, 1997

13

BITS & BYTES

By JENNIFER FRIEDMAN

Foxcom receives \$3m. investment: Apex Partners, a \$40m. venture-capital fund, has decided to invest \$3m. in Foxcom, a Jerusalem-based maker of fiber optic solutions for the communications industry. The company said the investment will go to developing innovative cellular communications products. Apex Partners, which invests in high-tech, industrial and service companies, is part of Apex International. The parent company has \$2b. worth of investments in 200 American, German, British and French companies.

Green College to offer computer courses: Green College, a member of the Green Computers group, is offering two computer courses: an introductory class in animation and 3-D and a PC graphics course. Green College promises to help people who take the courses to find jobs in the computer field. To find out more about the classes, which begin February 24, 1997, call 177-022-1993.

Indigo and the Cerruti Group sign partnership agreement: Indigo N.V. (Nasdaq: INDGF), a Netherlands-based company that produces its upscale printing systems in Israel, has announced a strategic partnership agreement with the Cerruti group. Under the terms of the agreement, the Cerruti Group, a privately held company that has been operating in the printing field since 1947, will distribute and market Indigo's digital Omnibus One-Shot Color printers. The Omnibus One-Shot Color system employs ElectroInk, a new ink product for background printing on transparent substrates.

Magic receives \$500,000 in new orders: Magic Software Enterprises (Nasdaq: MGICF) of Irvine, California recently announced two new contracts with leading newspaper and magazine distributors in the UK. John Menzies and W.H. Smith News will integrate "Magic" as the development tool for their operational systems. The contracts will contribute \$500,000 to fourth-quarter revenues. The company develops, publishes and markets Magic, a table-driven, cross-platform rapid application development system for creating client, server and Internet-based solutions. Mashov Computers of Or Yehuda holds 51% of Magic, which Mashov spun off in 1991.

Memo and GTE sign \$1m. deal: Under the terms of a recently signed deal, Memco Software (Nasdaq: MEMCF) of Tel Aviv will sell GTE, an American telecommunications company, more than \$1m. worth of additional copies of Memco's SeOS information-security suite of products. The deal brings the worth of their business relationship to over \$3m. GTE is one of the largest publicly held telecommunications companies in the world.

Orekit wins Telecom Eireann tender for supply of HDSL modems: Orekit Communications Ltd. (Nasdaq: ORCIF) of Tel Aviv, recently won a tender to supply its CopperTrunkOE ORcom and ORack HDSL (high bit rate digital subscriber line) modems directly to Telecom Eireann, the national telephone operating company of Ireland. HDSL enables bi-directional data transmission of 2 Mbps over existing copper telephone wires. This allows telecom operators to offer high speed data services without incurring a costly infrastructure investment. Orekit currently supplies its HDSL modems to customers in Europe, Israel, Africa, the Far East and Central and South America.

OTI and Japan's CSK Group sign joint venture deal: Smarcard developer On Track (OTI), of Rosh Pina, has signed a strategic partnership with the Japanese CSK Group, the world's largest information services company, whose holdings include Sega Enterprises. According to the agreement, OTI will invest \$2m. to establish a subsidiary in Japan. The company will distribute a series of smarcards, including electronic purses and public transportation cards. CSK's subsidiaries and OTI, one of the four leading smarcard makers worldwide, will work together on a number of projects.

RadVision and Netscape sign licensing agreement: RadVision of Tel Aviv and California-based Netscape Communications Corporation (Nasdaq: NSCP) recently announced that Netscape has licensed software from RadVision to implement the standard H.323 protocol in Netscape Conference software. Netscape Conference, which allows users to speak and be heard simultaneously, is the real-time collaboration component of Netscape Communicator, an integrated client software suite allowing users to communicate, access and share information on Intranets and the Internet.

Siemens-Nixdorf to incorporate Intel's MMX technology in its PCs: Siemens-Nixdorf, the computer division of Germany's Siemens AG, will incorporate Intel's MMX technology in its personal computers. Pentium MMX technology, which was developed by Intel's Israel subsidiary, is said to operate 20 to 40 times faster than conventional pentium processors.

CORRECTION

The photograph on Page 6 of Wednesday's Money magazine mistakenly featured Elron Electronic Industries CEO Uzia Galil.

Analysts: TASE to be tested by share offers

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The long-term resilience of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's newly bullish trading will be put to the test with the government's imminent offering of 17 percent of Bank Discount's shares, capital market analysts said yesterday.

Since the start of the year, the share market has appreciated more than 25%, following more than two years of a bear market marked by low turnovers and the near disappearance of new issues on the TASE. As a result, Israeli companies have sought alternative methods of financing, mainly public offerings on US equity markets.

However, the government intends to raise NIS 170 million initially from the sale of the country's third largest bank on the TASE later this month. The success or failure of the issue is significant considering the last few months' standstill in the banking sector's privatization process, but it is also an important indication of whether issues can be made on the TASE, analysts said.

The positive trend of the share market is encouraging many local firms - especially companies engaged in industry, commerce and real estate - to consider the TASE as a source of financing.

instead of going overseas, said David Weisberg, general manager of IBI Brokerage House.

"Underwriters are waiting for a signal. They want to see if Bank Discount's offering will be absorbed by the market," Weisberg said.

The outcome of Bank Discount's offering will be determined by the public's willingness to invest in the TASE, as well as the stock's sale price, which will have to be attractive, said Yair Lapidot, general manager of National Consultants. Current trading volumes are still relatively low compared with the peaks of 1993, Lapidot said. The public, he concluded, has yet to return to the market.

"There is a problem with the financial institutions. It is not yet clear what is happening with them," Lapidot said, explaining that the mutual funds need an injection of new capital from the public in order to raise financing to participate in the offering.

The provident funds, he said, are interested in maintaining reserve liquid assets in fear that they will find themselves in the same situation as last year, when they suffered from a wave of redemptions from the public.

shares are offered at an attractive price, Lapidot forecasts the institutions may decide to engage in "arbitrage" as a method of buying Discount shares.

While analysts define the last few months' performance of the market as "bullish," the majority agree that daily increases of 2%-4% in share values are unhealthy for the market.

Most analysts attribute the market's recent resurgence to the recovery of the peace process, which has helped restore foreign investors' confidence in the local market.

"Companies' yields can not justify these kind of gains. I think the share market can continue to go up at a very high rate and could even appreciate by 30% by the end of the year, but this is not recommended since it could be followed by a sharp drop in prices," said Doron Zur, an analyst at Sahar Securities.

Commenting on the US market, analysts said they expect the local high-tech sector to continue raising capital overseas.

"The high-tech companies receive higher valuations in the US, since Wall Street investors are willing to put more money at risk in companies of this kind," said Jonathan Half, vice president of Oscar Gruss.

Knesset finance panel OK's Discount share offering

By EVELYN GORDON

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the sale of 17 percent of Bank Discount on the stock exchange.

The offering, which the Treasury expects to raise some NIS 600 million, will consist of packages including shares plus two sets of options - the first redeemable three months after the issue and the second redeemable after nine months.

The Treasury said it expects to collect some 28% of the total value of the offering immediately, another 32% when the first set of options is redeemed and the remaining 40% when the final set of options is redeemed. The offering is expected to cost the Treasury 1.8% of its total value, or about NIS 10.8 million.

Sixty percent of the issue will be

offered in advance to institutional investors, and another 10% will be offered to Discount employees. Since Discount shares already are traded on the stock exchange, the price of each part of the package will be set according to the trading price of Discount shares at that time.

The offering will be managed by a consortium of 30 to 50 underwriters, led by IBI, Eyal, Leader and Clal Issuing. At the Bank of Israel's orders, no banks will be included in the underwriting consortium, the Treasury said.

The shares which will be offered to Discount's 6,500 employees will be priced at 25% less than the general offering. Each worker will be entitled to buy an amount equal to 90% of his monthly salary, but will have to hold on to the shares for at least four years.

US aid to Israel intact under 1998 budget proposal

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Israel will continue receiving \$3 billion in annual assistance under the budget proposal President Bill Clinton presented to Congress yesterday.

The president's \$1.7 trillion budget for fiscal year 1998 maintains the Israeli aid package of \$1b. in military assistance and \$1.2b. in economic aid. Israel will receive an additional \$80 million to help resettle immigrants.

The budget also provides \$1.2b. and \$815m. in military and economic aid, respectively, to Egypt; \$75m. to the Palestinians; and \$70m. in military and economic aid to Jordan, up from \$40m. in fiscal year 1997.

It further allocates \$52.5m. to seed the Middle East Development Bank, to be based in Cairo; \$12m. to promote Middle East peace talks, and \$2m. to fund the Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group established when the Operation Grapes of Wrath cease-fire was reached last April.

In all, foreign military and economic aid totals \$13.3b. But congressional Republicans are likely to again

fight the administration's request and seek to further trim foreign aid spending.

Clinton's budget calls for \$19.45b. in diplomatic spending, including for State Department operations, the US Information Agency (USIA) and UN dues.

Last year Clinton asked for \$19.2b. but Congress agreed to just \$18.3b., of which about \$12.3b. was for foreign aid.

Officers of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee are due in town next week and will lobby budget committee members on behalf of the president's funding requests, an official of the group said yesterday.

Clinton's budget proposal cuts taxes for the middle class, provides billions of dollars to upgrade education and health care and still claims balance in 2002.

"I urge Congress to help me finish the job and balance the budget by 2002 - giving the American people the balanced budget they deserve," the president said in his budget message.

The president had promised in his State of the Union address Tuesday to make balancing the budget and improving education his top priorities, and his spending blueprint was designed to carry that out.

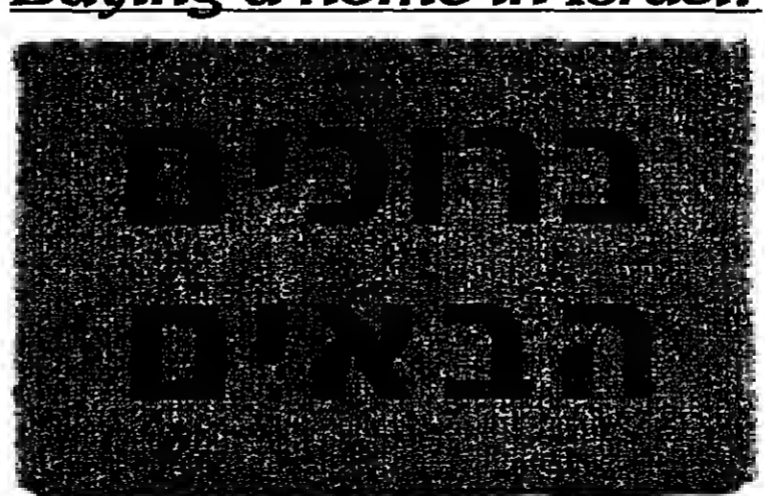
ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for):	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	8.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.2.97)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.2890	3.3421	3.29	3.38	3.6307
German mark	1.9824	2.0246	1.95	2.06	2.0097
Pound sterling	5.3826	5.4796	5.30	5.59	5.4438
French franc	0.5904	0.6000	0.58	0.61	0.5956
Japanese yen (100)	2.8892	2.7021	2.81	2.74	2.8836
Dutch florin	1.7788	1.8025	1.74	1.83	1.7894
Swiss franc	2.3073	2.3448	2.26	2.38	2.3277
Swedish krona	0.4468	0.4518	0.43	0.48	0.4495
Norwegian krona	0.6177	0.6158	0.48	0.53	0.5122
Denish krone	0.5227	0.5312	0.51	0.54	0.5270
Finnish mark	0.6710	0.6819	0.65	0.70	0.6775
Canadian dollar	2.4425	2.4819	2.40	2.52	2.4561
Australian dollar	2.5094	2.548	2.48	2.59	2.5348
S. African rand	0.7381	0.7480	0.66	0.75	0.7429
Belgian franc (10)	0.9858	0.9814	0.84	1.00	0.9736
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8324	2.8781	2.78	2.92	2.8580
Italian lire (1000)	4.0273	2.0800	1.89	2.09	2.0439
Jordanian dinar	4.5700	4.8900	4.57	4.88	4.7158
Egyptian pound	0.9400	1.0200	0.84	1.02	1.0128
ECU	2.8738	3.0381	-	-	3.0980
Irish punt	5.2854	5.8707	5.18	5.45	5.3902
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3558	2.3838	2.31	2.43	2.3755

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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What's more, each and every Morefor™ mortgage is custom-designed around the needs of the individual client. Because there are few things quite as personal as your home.

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- Morefor™ mortgages start at \$75,000 and are available for up to half your property's value.
- Morefor™ mortgages offer schedules of up to ten years, and payments may be made either quarterly or semi-annually with no pre-payment penalties.
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DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
Date: 5.2.97	Date: 5.2.97	Date: 5.2.97	Date: 5.2.97
Purchase Price: 115.74	Purchase Price: 164.04	Purchase Price: 164.04	Purchase Price: 161.68
Redemption Price: 114.24	Redemption Price: 161.68	Redemption Price: 161.68	Redemption Price: 161.68

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing various Israeli stocks like Am Israel Paper, Amiel, etc.

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing NASDAQ Israeli stocks like Accel Software, A.C. Associates, etc.

MISHTANIM LEADING STOCKS

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing Mishtanim stocks like Al Paper Mills, Adverlan Int, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST, CHANGE, listing international stocks like Aca, AMP Inc, etc.

NEW YORK

Large table listing various international and US stocks with columns for last price and change.

Table listing various international stocks with columns for last price and change.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares down in tense trade

Mishtanim 258.19 -0.68% Maof 267.61 -0.52%

Shares closed lower yesterday in tense trading, traders said. The Two-Sided Index fell 0.68 percent, or 1.76 points, to 258.19 on all-share turnover of NIS 183 million, against NIS 210m. on Wednesday. The Maof Index closed 0.52% lower at 267.61.

Trading was very volatile today and the market went up and down. Maof option speculators were simply rocking the market, a trader at Bank Leumi said yesterday.

The market is very nervous and volatile, and it is not acting in a rational way. This seems to be only a very brief consolidation, which shows that the market is still very strong, said Michael Politzer, head of the economic department at the Central Securities Corp.

The positive momentum is expected to continue and we keep waiting for a real correction, which never comes," the Leumi trader said. "Foreign investors were very busy buying today, while options playing were selling."

Share prices rose very fast during the last few weeks. The market is expected to continue rising at a much slower pace," Politzer added.

The most active shares were Isreal Chemicals, which rose 3.0% to 399 agrot on volume of NIS 11.2m.; Supersol, which surged 4.25% to 1.043 agrot on turnover of NIS 10.7m.; and Bank Leumi, which fell 0.75% to 526 agrot on volume of NIS 7.9m. Discount Bank fell 1.25%.

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Frankfurt, Paris stocks close at new highs

Frankfurt and Paris stocks closed at new highs yesterday as investors bet on a recovery in the German economy, according to analysts.

The DAX finished at 3104.14, a modest increase on the day, but eclipsing the previous best set on Wednesday.

With people constantly taking up chances to come into the market, I think we are OK at these levels," said another analyst, adding that he saw 3,150 points as an attainable short-term goal for the DAX.

The dollar - a crucial factor for German exporters' income - was buoyed all day after a report showing a sharp rise in German unemployment, which rose to 4.66 million in January, the highest level since the 1930s.

London, Europe's biggest bourse, was the worst performer, showing a 0.36 percent loss at the close as recent volatility on Wall Street prompted a small pullback from Wednesday's all-time highs.

Continued fears that the Dow could be on the verge of a substantial downward correction weighed on investor sentiment but steady British and US interest rates helped calm but not eradicate jittery market nerves.

"It wasn't a bad day considering Wall Street's slide yesterday," the head of trading at a large investment bank said.

"But the market is still on edge." The FTSE 100 index closed 15.6 points down at 4,265.9.

The Dow Industrials, which plunged 86 points on Wednesday, started a dozen or so points firmer in the opening minutes of US trade but was virtually unchanged by the close of London business.

In Paris, shares clawed back early losses to show a 0.68 percent gain at the close. They had opened sharply lower following Wall Street's overnight drop.

On the foreign exchange front, the dollar remained buoyant against the mark and yen as economic problems in Germany and Japan stayed at the forefront of traders' minds, suggesting no objection to recent currency trends from the Group of Seven industrial nations this weekend.

Persistent rumors that Japan's Nippon Credit Bank is in deep financial difficulty were denied by the bank later but proved enough to help dollar to a fresh four-year high at 124.00 yen at one point.

And the dollar hovered just shy of 31-month highs against the mark as the German currency was denied by yet another dire German jobless report.

Seasonally adjusted German unemployment rose a massive 160,000 in January, dragging the unadjusted unemployment rate to 12.2% from 10.8% in December.

"There's really been no change in the fundamentals that have driven the dollar this far and it's highly unlikely anyone in the G7 has an interest to reverse the trend," said Peter Wood, currency trader at Bank of Boston.

"Quietly the Germans must be happy with a weaker mark when you see unemployment data like this."

Other active shares were Isreal Chemicals, which rose 3.0% to 399 agrot on volume of NIS 11.2m.; Supersol, which surged 4.25% to 1.043 agrot on turnover of NIS 10.7m.; and Bank Leumi, which fell 0.75% to 526 agrot on volume of NIS 7.9m. Discount Bank fell 1.25%.

Table with columns: US Dollar, Sterling, Mark, listing exchange rates.

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Tired Yeltsin makes brief appearance

MOSCOW (Reuters) - A tired but determined Russian President Boris Yeltsin spoke directly to television cameras briefly yesterday for the first time since falling ill with pneumonia exactly a month ago.

At the start of a Kremlin meeting with the head of the upper house of parliament, Yeltsin, 66, spoke before television cameras for about 45 seconds — the first time he has directly addressed Russian citizens this year.

He spoke slowly to assure elderly Russians they would continue to receive their pensions. He was responding to a proposal by the head of Russia's pension fund that working pensioners should receive a reduction in benefits.

"I can firmly say as president that this will never happen," Yeltsin said. "Pensions for the ordinary pensioner will be preserved today, tomorrow, the day after and as long as we live." Referring to both houses of parliament and with his voice rising in apparent anger, he said: "Neither the president, nor the government, nor the Federation Council, nor the Duma have even given a thought to this." Yeltsin, who is spending most of his time recovering in an official residence outside Moscow, has visited the Kremlin five times since leaving hospital on January 20.

He was diagnosed with pneumonia in both lungs on January 6, two months after quintuple heart bypass surgery.

Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev, whose meeting with Yeltsin lasted less than an hour, said Yeltsin was able to work but was still suffering the consequences of pneumonia.

"I last saw Yeltsin after the (heart) operation and now after his flu (pneumonia). Today I saw a president alert, in a working condition, but of course this flu has had its consequences," he told reporters.

During their meeting, the two men also discussed what the Kremlin press office referred to as the "development of the constitutional process."

Stroyev, a former communist who has largely been loyal to Yeltsin as Federation Council speaker, has recently said the Russian constitution — which gives the president overwhelming powers — should be changed to give parliament more influence.

Russia's current constitution was approved by a popular vote after Yeltsin disbanded the former parliament using military force in 1993. It would be extremely difficult to change under the rules for its amendment.

Ecuadoreans tire of 'loco' leader

QUITO (AP) — Ecuadoreans are fed up with the extroverted, jocular president they call *el loco* (the crazy one) and may be ready to throw him out of office.

A day after an estimated 2 million people marched in the streets against Bucaram, Congress was meeting in emergency session yesterday to consider calls for the removal of President Abdala Bucaram.

The opposition called for another massive demonstration outside Congress.

By mid-morning there were no signs of marches in the capital, but Luis Villacis, the strike leader, called for people to gather yesterday evening in a park four blocks from Congress.

Under Ecuadorean law the president can be removed by simple majority vote for "mental incapacity," avoiding the long process of impeachment. Congress could vote to fire Bucaram yesterday, especially if backed by a large chanting crowd outside.

"Yesterday the people expressed their opinion," former President Osvaldo Hurtado said.

Bucaram is being accused of incompetence and corruption by opposition parties and workers who say he has become a national embarrassment.

His antics include recording a CD called *A Crazy Man Who Loves* and inviting Lorena Bobbitt — an Ecuador-born immigrant to the United States who cut off her husband's penis — to the national palace.

Their frustration spilled over during a nationwide strike Wednesday. Workers, some wearing Bucaram masks, ridiculed their president and said the country's honor was in tatters.

For the second time in two days, Bucaram addressed the nation on television, taking a conciliatory tone and promising to make corrections in his government.

He repeated calls for a "national dialogue" and said the country needed to "calm its passions." Earlier, he had tried to sidestep his detractors this week by announcing he was in favor of the strike. He even declared the strike day a national holiday to allow all state workers to join in.

Cesar Gaviria, president of the Organization of American States, made an urgent trip to the capital, Quito, and said the widespread turmoil was jeopardizing Ecuador's fledgling democracy.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns urged "all Ecuadoreans to refrain from violence" and respect the democratic process.

Yesterday, many stores and businesses reopened, but municipal workers in Quito were given the day off. Schools remain closed today *under government order*.

The strike originally was called to protest austerity measures that have raised rates for electricity, fuel and telephone service by as much as 300 percent since January.

It soon took on a more personal target.

In the capital, workers chanted "Ole, ole, ole! Thief, thief, thief!" accusing Bucaram of corruption. Police held them back with tear gas. Elsewhere they lit bonfires and tires in the streets. Indians and peasants blocked main highways with rocks and tree trunks.

Stores, businesses and factories around the country were closed after Bucaram ordered a national holiday.

The 44-year-old president took office in August after a campaign that included an outlandish road show featuring him as singer, dancer, comedian and demagogue railing against corruption and injustice.

Rent riots sweep Jo'burg suburbs

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South African police fired rubber bullets and teargas at stone-throwing demonstrators in Johannesburg yesterday as protests about rates payments descended into riot.

Army units were called in to help quell violence reminiscent of street protests that marked the anti-apartheid past but which have been rare in the country's industrial capital since Nelson Mandela became president after all-race elections in 1994.

Witnesses said several people were wounded by rubber bullets and teargas canisters in the clashes, in predominantly colored (mixed-race) southern suburbs between the black township of Soweto and the city's downtown business district.

At least one policeman, wounded in a hail of stones and bottles, was also rushed to hospital, a police spokesman said.

"People have a right to peaceful protest but when others are intimidated and life and property put at risk, it is our duty to intervene," said Superintendent Govindasamy Mariemuthoo of Soweto police.

"The situation is very volatile and tense. The South African National Defence Force has come in to assist the police in maintaining law and order and removing barricades." Hundreds of chanting residents blocked roads with piles of burning tyres and trash cans, protesting against local council threats to evict those who do not pay for the water and electricity they use, and demanding to pay only a flat rate.

The demonstrations were organized by the largely colored South Western Joint Civics Association, Soweto, which called on people to stay away from work to show support.

O.J. jury urged to impose punitive damages

SANTA MONICA - The jury in O.J. Simpson's civil trial was urged yesterday to punish the former football star by imposing punitive damages for the deaths of his ex-wife and her friend on top of the \$8.5 million they already decided he should pay in compensation.

Daniel Petrocchi, the plaintiffs' lead attorney, told the panel he would put on expert witnesses who would show that "Mr. Simpson has a lot of money, in the neighborhood of many millions of dollars." The jury found Simpson responsible for the deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, who were killed outside her home on June 12, 1994. He was acquitted on criminal murder charges in 1995.

Petrocchi said Simpson could not be sent to jail for his actions in violating the rights of the victims but he could be forced to pay heavily. "We are not just talking about any violations, we are talking about the most unconscionable violations," he added.

He also said punitive dam-



O.J. Simpson — the two young children she had with Simpson — and Ronald Goldman's heirs, who are his father and mother.

Red Cross halts Tajikistan operations

DUSHANBE (Reuters) - The Red Cross said yesterday it had suspended operations in Tajikistan and sent all non-essential staff to neighboring Uzbekistan after four United Nations workers were seized in the capital Dushanbe.

The Red Cross retreat came in response to the kidnapping earlier yesterday of four employees with the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, by unknown assailants.

The UNHCR said the agency had had no contact with the four — an expatriate from Nigeria, a Tajik security guard and two Tajik drivers — since they went missing in the centre of the capital with two marked UN cars.

UN military observers based in Tajikistan had reported that the four were captured by the same armed Tajik rebel group that seized four UN military observers — from Austria, Switzerland and Ukraine — as well as two Red Cross workers and four Russian journalists.

The UN observers said the four had been taken to a place called Obigarm in the central Garm valley and about 80 km from Dushanbe in the remote, mountainous Central Asian republic bordering China.

Both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) said they had stopped work in the former Soviet republic.

Protesting Albanians occupy port city's downtown

VLORE (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Albanians, blaming the government for collapsed investment schemes, swept aside lines of riot police yesterday to occupy the center of this port city for the second consecutive day.

Up to 30,000 protesters, their numbers swelled throughout the morning by villagers impoverished by the collapsed schemes, poured jubilantly through city streets to Independence Square.

"Vlore is ours, down with the government," the crowd chanted, punching the air and demanding the resignation of President Sali Berisha's right-wing government. "Sali, you thief, where have you put our money?" others shouted.

The protests, sparked by the collapse of one scheme based in the area, engulfed the centre of the city most of the week.

Police fought pitched battles with demonstrators down palm-lined boulevards, but twice failed to disperse them.

The interior ministry said three demonstrators and three policemen were injured in Wednesday's clashes. The country's most popular newspaper, Koha Jone, said 20 people were hurt.

Riot policemen told Reuter correspondents at least 25 officers had suffered facial injuries from flying stones.

Several said they were tired of confronting the demonstrators.

Berisha has offered limited help to ruined depositors, particularly those who sold homes to increase their stake. In an interview published yesterday he said his opponents had failed in their aim of turning discontent into a bloodbath.

"The opposition made a big mistake. It wanted a bloodbath and it did not happen," Berisha told the Paris daily *Le Monde*.

"Albania is calm." Women and children led yesterday's ragged procession down streets of the Adriatic port as police moved out of their way.

Some protesters went to a high school and persuaded pupils to leave classrooms and join the rally.

About 10,000 protesters surged to the main police station early in the afternoon and demanded the release of comrades they said had been detained during Wednesday's skirmishes.

"Free our friends," shouted the protesters, massed in the street and on nearby balconies and rooftops.

Turkish forces clash with Greek Cypriots

NICOSIA — Turkish security forces clashed with armed Greek Cypriots yesterday on the border separating the Greek and Turkish communities on this divided island, a Turkish Cypriot news report said.

But the Greek Cypriot government denied there was a shootout.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash held Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides responsible for the incident, alleging the military deliberately staged the incident.

"They were Greek Cypriot soldiers, backed by a machine gun unit," Denktash was quoted as saying by the TAK news agency.

UN spokesman Waldemar Rokosewski said: "There was a claim by the Turkish army shots were fired by the National Guard. We have no confirmation of this now."

(News agencies)

PILOTS

Continued from Page 7

with what may be waiting for him around the corner and does not prepare himself for these situations is likely to find himself in these very situations," he said.

"I remember incidents when there was fear before heading out to operational activity, but you learn to overcome it. It is a process that has to be learned like other aspects of flying, but it is more difficult because it touches upon very inner and personal feelings. You have to turn fear into concern because this is an inseparable component of the profession," said Maj. Y.

Despite the heavy loss, IAF pilots are bound to bounce back to their former selves quickly, said one former pilot, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Most guys are fatalistic about these sorts of things. They have always happened and they are not going to wake up the next morning and say 'Damn. We've got to go fly again. Obviously the pilots in the CH-53 squadron will be dragging their butts for a week or two, but they will get over the loss.'

And the swagger? "I don't think anyone will hang their heads too low and think less of themselves. It is not in the make-up of pilots who are chosen to be able to handle these sort of things," said the pilot.

Eveo now, CH-53s are flying troops into Lebanon and will con-

COPING

Continued from Page 8

raw material. Aside from the families and inner circle of the victims, whose lives are forever changed, many other people have been affected. They start to doubt themselves. This can include soldiers who do helicopter maintenance, military officers and also government ministers.

"The immediate reaction to catastrophe is pulling together, a feeling of unity. But I predict that it won't last through next week. I don't want to be a prophet of doom, but there will be plenty of finger pointing very soon."

WHETHER ISRAELIS needed an official day of national mourning this week is a subject of controversy. Stores were nearly empty of customers in the wake of the accident, parties and even some wedding celebrations were postponed, and cinemas would have had no customers in the mood to see a film even if the government hadn't instructed them to close.

"The families are with them," notes Granot. It's a good thing, but it's difficult to know when a tragedy is "big enough" to require a national day of mourning. There wasn't one when 54 soldiers died in a helicopter crash in Jericho 20 years ago or after the chain of bus bombings last year. I'm glad that I don't have to make such decisions."

It isn't successive disasters that weaken the national will, Granot suggests, "but the growing affluence of the society. It's true that faced by outside threats, those who are better off have more things to defend. But the good life makes you want more of the good life, to view things individualistically rather than to be concerned

SOCCER ACTION

But the situation with high-school pupils is much more problematic. They face the army, and incidents like this can cause anxiety. Ironically, there's always been a drop in motivation to serve in elite units just after a war. It occurred even after the Six Day War, and certainly after the Lebanon war. But after a while, the normal situation recovers, and a balance is achieved." The psychologist doesn't accept claims that soldiers today, many of them equipped with cellular phones to keep in touch with their worried families, are too "spoiled" to be fighters.

"Many of the parents have been in the army and know what it's like. Tens of thousands of parents were beside themselves when they learned of the crash. It's a positive thing that the IDF opened all the phone lines for them to call home."

Children can be helped to deal with their fears not only by talking, but also by drawing pictures and playing games, suggests Granot. "You can't force them to express themselves, some are better off internalizing it than letting it out. Teenagers facing the army absorb the country's macho culture. They're reluctant to talk about being afraid."

"Those aiming for elite units are most interested in testing their limits. When something like this week's accident occurs, their ambitions are confused. But there are coping mechanisms: religious beliefs about spiritual values and the afterlife can help some. Others can look at the general dangerousness of daily life. There are commercial airline crashes from time to time, but that doesn't keep you from flying. There are constant road accidents, but you grit your teeth and go because you have to get there. Israelis, adept at facing uncertainty and danger, will have to go on."

SOUCHEBY'S PROBES ART SMUGGLING

LONDON (Reuters) - Respected British auctioneer Sotheby's admitted yesterday the law had been broken and said it had suspended senior staff following a report that claimed it had smuggled art treasures from Italy to Britain.

George Bailey, managing director of Sotheby's Europe, said he was very sad about the incident which was reported in an investigative television program.

"The law has been broken in this isolated case," he said, adding that he was not aware of any criminal proceedings.

"I am very sad about this. We have taken the appropriate action and are also keeping the show on the road."

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Soccer actionlude rememb for 73 falle

NATIONAL LEAGUE

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England bowlers slice through NZ

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - England bowlers, led by Darren Gough and Andy Caddick, cut through the New Zealand top order on the first day of the second Test, shortened to one session yesterday...



WATCH OUT - England bowler Andy Caddick cut through the New Zealand top order.

The day. England captain Mike Atherton must have been much happier with his bowlers than in the first Test when on a similar green wicket New Zealand reached 390 after he sent them in...

plentiful movement off the seam to do the work. Atherton has been under pressure this tour. England failed to win the test series in Zimbabwe and lost the one day series there...

reeling in the second innings. New Zealand included left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, who at 18 years 10 days became that country's youngest Test player...

Maccabi impressive in home win over Berlin

By RICHARD ZAACKS Maccabi Tel Aviv put on one of its most impressive performances of the season last night, defeating Alba Berlin 78-62 at Yad Eliahu in Euro League action...

stormed back from a strong Maccabi opening to cut a 11-point deficit to 15-10. Henefeld took the game into his own hands, creating five Alba turnovers as Maccabi went on a 19-10 run to boost its lead to 34-20...

Wendell Alexis paced Alba with 16 points, while Sasha Obradovic had 15 and Henrik Rudl 12. Ironically, the Germans stayed in the game with 85.3% free-throw shooting (19-22), after coming into the contest with a paltry 67.4% success rate from the foul line...

Group E table with columns for team name and scores: Stefanel Milan 11 3 24, Maccabi Tel Aviv 8 8 22, Alba Berlin 6 6 22, Olympiacos 6 6 22, CSKA Moscow 7 7 21, Charleroi 0 14 14.

Lewis and McCall: Two approaches to problems

LAS VEGAS (Reuters) - Oliver McCall and Lennox Lewis are two fighters with two approaches to problem solving. McCall has turned to the Scriptures to help him see the light. Lewis has sought the gospel according to Manny...

fighting rights to the fight in Britain. McCall's spin doctors think Lewis (29-1) will still be vulnerable on the inside. Greg Page, a former heavyweight world champion and McCall's co-trainer with George Benton, says Lewis, "is afraid" to fight inside because, "he hates body shots. He hates it with a passion."

Gretzky's 4 assists help beat Whalers

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Hartford Whalers tried to get rough with Wayne Gretzky Wednesday, but he made them pay. Gretzky had four assists, Luc Robitaille had two goals and an assist and Adam Graves scored twice as the Rangers stopped a four-game home winless streak with a 5-2 victory over the slumping Whalers...

in their last eight games overall and 1-3-1 in their last five at Madison Square Garden. Brian Leach had the other New York goal while former Ranger Steven Rice and Hnat Domenichelli tallied for Hartford. Penguins 6, Canadiens 3. Glenn Murray scored two goals in a 3:02 span of the third period and Jaromir Jagr added his league-leading 44th tally.

Penguins improved to 13-2-1 in their last 16 road games. In Lemieux's last visit to Montreal, he scored four goals in the third period. Petr Nedved added two power-play goals and rookie Patrick Lalime continued to stake his claim to the Calder Trophy, stopping 46 shots. Lalime is 18-2-2 since being called up from the International Hockey League.

Western Conference Central Division table with columns for team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes teams like Dallas, Detroit, St. Louis, Phoenix, Chicago, Tampa Bay, Toronto.

Soccer action to include remembrance for 73 fallen

All local soccer fixtures this weekend will begin with a minute's silence and all players will wear black ribbons to commemorate the 73 dead in Tuesday's helicopter accident in the north. The heavy sense of loss will make for a subdued weekend of soccer, although the situation in the National League also does not make for extraordinarily exciting stuff in the 17th round of action.

She'an. If hosts Beit She'an inflict another loss on Taiba today, it would seem to make the Arab sector side's task of remaining in the league well-nigh impossible, even at this early stage of the season. Hapoel Tel Aviv's recovery plans have received a severe blow with the suspension of Alon Hazan for three matches after he swore at referee Eitan Tabrizi in the State Cup tie against Ironi Ashdod two weeks ago. Hapoel hosts Hapoel Kfar Sava in a match which could go either way and Hazan's absence is sure to be felt, making new coach Dror Kashtan's job all the more difficult without the talented international defender.

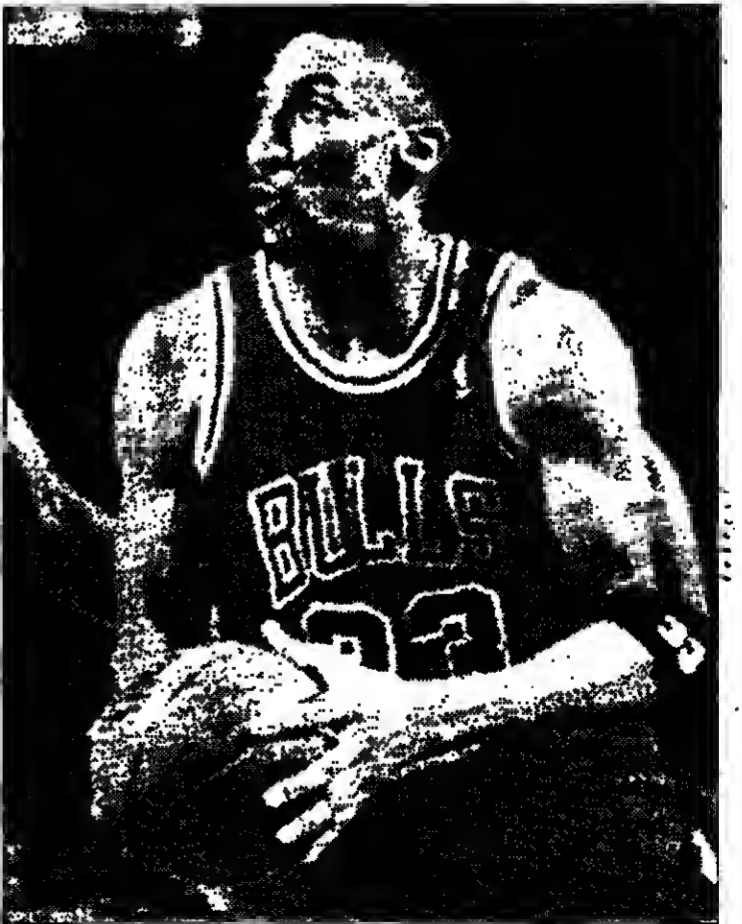
England national squad hobbled by injuries

LONDON (AP) - Paul Gascoigne watched his England colleagues train yesterday. He also jogged a little. But the former Lazio midfielder, who was in plaster after he suffered an ankle injury in a six-a-side competition last week, still looked a very doubtful starter for England's World Cup qualifying game against Italy Wednesday. Reports from his club in Scotland suggested Gascoigne had no chance of playing and England coach Glenn Hoddle called Liverpool midfielder Jamie Redknapp into the squad. Hoddle said that Gascoigne would remain with the team.

Shaq-less Lakers beat Bulls, 106-90

INGLEWOOD - The Los Angeles Lakers, without Shaquille O'Neal, beat Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. Elden Campbell, playing center in place of the injured O'Neal, responded with a career-high 34 points as the Lakers snapped the Bulls' eight-game winning streak 106-90 in a battle of division leaders. Campbell grabbed 14 rebounds and Nick Van Exel had 24 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds for Los Angeles, which won for the seventh time in eight games and increased its Pacific Division lead to 2 1/2 games over Seattle. "First of all, I was getting the ball everywhere down the court," Campbell said. "We were trying to play me one-on-one. Any decent post player in the league, if you play him one-on-one, is going to get a lot of good looks and he's going to score."

OFF NIGHT - Scottie Pippen scored 22 points, but the court belonged to the Lakers.



OFF NIGHT - Scottie Pippen scored 22 points, but the court belonged to the Lakers.

Western Conference Midwest Division table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB, and Eastern Conference Atlantic Division table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

NATIONAL LEAGUE table with columns for team, P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Diff, Pts.

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

Western Conference Pacific Division table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

Eastern Conference Central Division table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

WESTERN CONFERENCE results table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

WESTERN CONFERENCE results table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

WESTERN CONFERENCE results table with columns for team, W, L, Pct, GB.

5 killed in van-truck collision

Five men were killed and five injured yesterday when their van apparently skidded on a patch of ice and collided head-on with a garbage truck in the Arab village of El-Jib north of Jerusalem. In two other accidents, two children were killed after being run over.

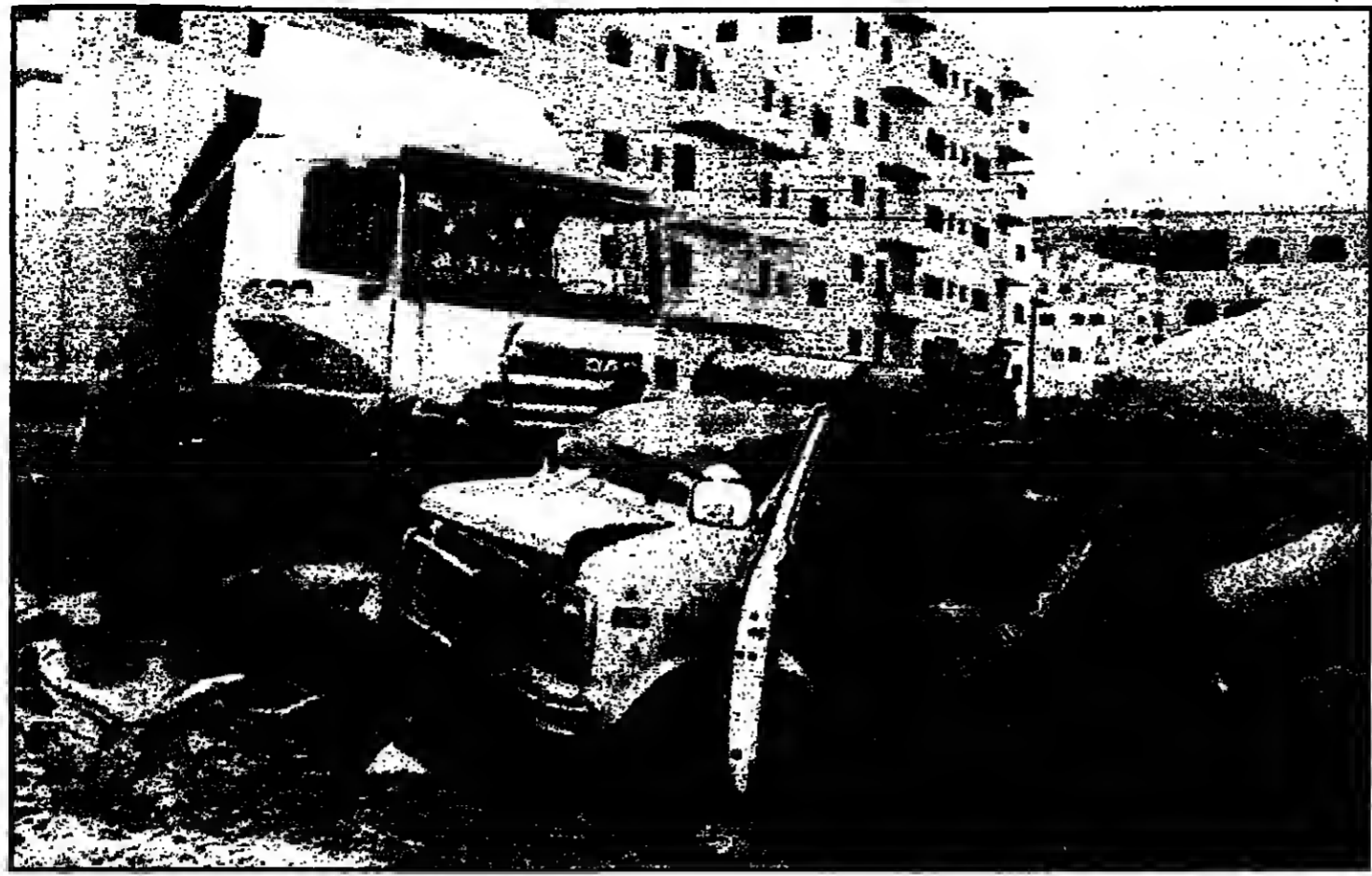
Four workers riding in a van on their way from the coast to the Abarot industrial zone were killed outright in the crash; a fifth died in hospital. Another three workers in the van were injured and two more persons were hurt when their vehicle crashed into the others.

Those killed were Moshe Klein and Haim Murdoch, both of Bnei Brak, Ezra Navon of Kiryat Ono, Meir Aslan of Kiryat Ono, and Baruch Bar-Shalom of Givat Shmuel.

After an initial investigation, Judea and Samaria district Police spokesman Boaz Goldberg said it appeared that the workers' van had skidded on a patch of ice, causing it to crash into the garbage truck.

Rescue units rushed to the scene and extracted the dead and injured workers from their van, which was torn apart by the impact. The injured were taken to Hadassah University Hospital at Ein Kerem. The road, which connects Abarot to Givat Ze'ev, was briefly blocked in both directions by the collision.

The hospital announced yesterday that two of the injured had undergone surgery, and a third would be operated on. One person remained in critical condition, another was listed as serious, two



Police officers inspect part of the wreckage of a van that skidded into this garbage truck yesterday at El-Jib near Jerusalem, killing five.

satisfactory, and one in good condition. In another road accident yesterday, a Shfarim resident ran over and fatally injured his two-year-old daughter while backing up his car. Rania Anhatavi was rushed to Haifa's Rambam Hospital, where she died of her injuries several hours later. Police questioned her

French defense minister due here

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

French Defense Minister Charles Millon is due to visit here next week as the official guest of his counterpart Yitzhak Mordechai. It will be Millon's first visit to Israel and he is to be received with full military honors.

He is to meet with President Ezer Weizman and lay a wreath at the grave of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Senior French defense officials and French army brass are to accompany Millon and they will visit with the IDF, the air force and military industries in the country.

The aim of the visit is to expand relations between the defense establishments of the two countries, which defense officials describe as "good."

On Sunday, prior to Millon's visit, the Defense Ministry will receive Sweden's deputy Defense Minister Lars Rokke. Since Mordechai took over at the Defense Ministry, he has hosted his counterparts from Germany, Poland and Ecuador.

WEATHER

Golden 2-8

Haifa 3-14

Tiberias 4-16

Afula 3-14

Samartha 1-9

Tel Aviv 4-14

Jerusalem 2-8

Beer Sheva 0-13

Dead Sea 8-18

Elon 4-18

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Geneva	07	16	cloudy
Hong Kong	15	26	cloudy
London	08	16	cloudy
Los Angeles	06	15	clear
Madrid	07	16	clear
Moscow	07	16	cloudy
New York	07	16	cloudy
Paris	07	16	cloudy
Rome	07	16	cloudy
Sydney	15	26	cloudy
Tokyo	14	24	cloudy
Vienna	07	16	cloudy

Inmate killed in fight at Ayalon Prison

A fight between two prisoners at Ayalon Prison yesterday ended with the death of Omar Faraj, 32, of Jerusalem, and with Amir Faras in fair condition at Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin suffering from stab wounds to his chest.

The men, who both were serving life sentences, got into an argument at around noon in the prisoners' lounge. They pulled out sharp objects, apparently improvised knives, and began brawling. The other prisoners didn't interfere, and by the time guards arrived, Faraj was lying on the ground in a pool of blood.

The men were rushed to Assaf Harofeh and Faraj died an hour later. Faras remained in the hospital last night under heavy security.

Ramle police are investigating the incident and how the prisoners obtained weapons.

Faraj was serving a life sentence for murdering policeman Avi Barazi and for later setting off an improvised bomb in Shata Prison, which blinded one prisoner and injured several others. Faras also is serving a life sentence for murder. (Tim)

Deri questioned again in Bar-On affair



By RAINE MARCUS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who was in favor of the Bar-On appointment, completed giving evidence in his Jerusalem office yesterday. He first gave evidence earlier this week.

So far police have interviewed 15 people, including lawyers and MKs, and expect to question additional parties. Police sources said that the investigating team would have a clearer picture in around a week's time.

On Wednesday afternoon, police, headed by Cmdr. Sando Mazar, met with State Attorney Edna Arbel to update her on the probe.



MK Aryeh Deri talks to reporters outside police fraud squad headquarters in Jaffa yesterday.

Danny, Ruti Nahmani agree to mediation for surrogacy procedure

By EVELYN GORDON

Danny and Ruti Nahmani agreed yesterday to court-sponsored mediation in their ongoing battle over Ruti's use of eggs fertilized by Danny to have a baby.

Ruti is unable to carry a child herself because her womb was destroyed by cancer. In 1988, she and Danny decided to have a child using a surrogate, which was illegal at the time. By the time they won permission in the courts to use a surrogate overseas, however, the marriage had collapsed, and Danny had moved in with another woman, with whom he now has two children. Danny then sued to prevent Ruti from implanting eggs he had fertilized, saying he did not want to father her children. After years of court battles, the Supreme Court finally ruled last year, 7-4, that Ruti had a right to use the eggs.

In the meantime, the Knesset passed a law making surrogacy legal in Israel, so Ruti decided not to go abroad for her surrogacy. However, Danny then sued again, arguing that under the new law, surrogacy was legal only with the consent of both parents. The Haifa District Court rejected this suit, saying the Supreme Court had already ruled that Danny could not revoke the consent he originally gave in 1988, and Danny then appealed to the Supreme Court. At the same time, however, the two sides began negotiating to see if they could reach an agreement.

At a hearing yesterday, Deputy Supreme Court President Shlomo Levine suggested that they continue these efforts via mediation, using a retired judge appointed by the court as a medi-

Mandela: South Africa will sell weapons to Syria

South Africa will disregard threats of sanctions and sell weapons to Syria, South African President Nelson Mandela said in an interview published this week.

"Listen to what I say: If the Syrians are satisfied with quality of South Africa's technology, we will sell them the weapons they request, and we will not take into account any kind of threats," Mandela was quoted as saying in the Arabic *Al-Hayar* newspaper. The interview was conducted while Mandela was attending the world economic conference in Davos, Switzerland.

There are Western companies which are selling weapons to the Syrians and they are not subject to any sanctions, he said. "If the US or Britain would decide to sell weapons to the Syrians, would someone imagine the possibility of sanctions?" he asked.

The US has hinted that it might halt aid to Pretoria if it sells weapons to Syria, which it accuses of supporting international terror.

Next week, South Africa is expected to decide whether to go ahead with a \$640 million weapons deal with Syria. (Tim)

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